

ESL teacher positions to be maintained

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The Department has confirmed its commitment to maintaining the current number of English as a second language (ESL) teacher positions from 2015 when the Gonski loading for students with limited English language proficiency is to be implemented (see letter in sidepanel).

This is a significant, positive response to the Federation's campaigning to protect the current statewide allocation of 896 (full time equivalent) ESL teacher positions since the announce-

ment of the Local Schools, Local Decisions (LSLD) policy and the advent of the Resource Allocation Model (RAM).

Community support for the maintenance of ESL teacher positions was evident in the attendance of more than 200 people at a forum held in the Federation auditorium on July 22.

The Department's maintenance of this staffing entitlement for ESL students will be welcome news in schools across the state. It is further affirmation of broad support for the Gonski funding model and an ongoing commitment to ensuring that the many

On the record

The Department of Education and Communities wrote to Federation on September 4, in part:

"With regard to the Federation's request for clarification on the allocation of teacher staffing for ESL students, the Department confirms that the current number of ESL teacher positions (896 FTE) will be retained and will continue to appear in school staffing entitlement reports from 2015. These ESL teacher positions will continue to be provided based on ESL student needs in each school and must be maintained and filled as ESL teacher positions in all schools."

thousands of public school students with additional needs are provided with the support necessary to achieve their potential in education and later life.

Federation will continue to work with the Department

to ensure that the Gonski funding model is utilised to the benefit of all NSW public school students.

Gary Zadkovich is the Deputy President and Amber Flohm is the Multicultural Officer/Organiser.