



New South Wales Teachers Federation
a branch of the Australian Education Union

AEU NSW Teachers Federation Branch ABN 86 600 150 697

Locked Bag N° 3010, Darlinghurst NSW 1300 • 02 9217 2100 • www.nswtf.org.au
NSW PRESIDENT: Maurie Mulheron • NSW GENERAL SECRETARY: John Dixon



NSW Teachers Federation Media Release

GONSKI FUNDING THE ANSWER TO CLOSING THE GAP FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS.

10 February 2016

There is a simple decision that Malcolm Turnbull can take today to help 'Close the Gap' for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and that is to implement the last two years of Gonski funding.

NSW Teachers Federation President Maurie Mulheron said education for Indigenous Australians was a key driver which would help close the gap and lift achievement levels for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

"Gonski funding is already targeting children in remote and very remote parts of Australia and if we are to succeed in 'closing the gap' it's important that the Federal Government doesn't turn off that important funding tap," Mr Mulheron said.

He said Gonski funding included an extra loading for Indigenous students because of their additional needs and the importance of education in addressing Indigenous disadvantage.

"We know how important literacy and numeracy is to help lift children out of poverty and give them the skills to succeed at school, undertake higher education or trade training and eventually secure good jobs," he said.

"It's pointless for Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to make speeches about lifting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people out of disadvantage, at the same time the Government is refusing to extend the vital needs-based funding for education that Gonski is providing."

Mr Mulheron said today's Closing the Gap Report was full of spin about being 'on track' to achieve positive outcomes in Indigenous education but the statistics continue to paint a grim picture.



New South Wales Teachers Federation
a branch of the Australian Education Union

AEU NSW Teachers Federation Branch ABN 86 600 150 697



Locked Bag N° 3010, Darlinghurst NSW 1300 • 02 9217 2100 • www.nswtf.org.au
NSW PRESIDENT: Maurie Mulheron • NSW GENERAL SECRETARY: John Dixon

“School attendance figures show little change. Literacy and numeracy results are lagging too far behind non-Indigenous Australians and not enough Indigenous students are finishing high school,” he said.

“Malcolm Turnbull needs to understand that Australians across the political divide overwhelmingly support the principles behind the Gonski reforms. The money being spent to assist the most disadvantaged of our students right now is achieving great results in countless schools around the country and this is especially true for Indigenous students.”

“But all that ends if funding is not extended to cover the full six years as recommended by the Gonski Report. ”

Maurie Mulheron is available for interview.

Media contact John Hill 0412197079