



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](http://www.nswtf.org.au)  
NSW PRESIDENT: Maurie Mulheron • NSW GENERAL SECRETARY: John Dixon



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## NSW Teachers Federation Media Release

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### **BARNABY JOYCE MUST BACK 'NEEDS BASED' EDUCATIONAL FUNDING BECAUSE KIDS IN THE BUSH FACE MASSIVE NEEDS.**

*12 February 2016*

The National Party and its new leader, Barnaby Joyce now have an opportunity to make a difference in rural and regional Australia by supporting the educational needs of children in the bush.

There is no more important issue in country areas than supporting the funding of the final two years of Gonski.

“Barnaby Joyce has made his reputation as a politician who likes to think he stands up for people in the bush and this is his big chance to make a difference by accepting that ‘needs based’ education funding -- continuing Gonski funding -- is vital for Australia’s future,” said NSW Teachers Federation President Maurie Mulheron.

“The Gonski model is delivering significant funding increases for all schools in regional and rural Australia, and as Deputy Prime Minister we are looking to Mr Joyce to show leadership by backing the fully funded Gonski model,” he said.

“To do anything less would be to deny resources to hundreds of thousands of children in country areas where educational needs are currently being met by Gonski funding but are due to run out by 2017.”

“We are calling upon Barnaby Joyce to assure every principal in country schools around Australia that the Turnbull-Joyce Government will now match the funding commitment announced by Labor.”



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It's time for bipartisanship on this issue.

Prior to the 2013 election Barnaby Joyce told the Northern Daily Leader in his New England electorate: "I believe without a shadow of a doubt, we will continue to commit to Gonski past the first term."

But we are still waiting for him to deliver.

"Mr Joyce's promise made to voters as he campaigned to succeed Tony Windsor, needs to be the position he takes to the Cabinet room. We need him to work actively to convince Malcolm Turnbull and Simon Birmingham to continue Gonski funding," Mr Mulheron said.

Former Independent MP for New England, Tony Windsor went on last night's ABC 7.30 program saying continuing needs-based Gonski funding was one of the issues Mr Joyce needed to face up to and deliver on.

Tony Windsor also said there was plenty of evidence in country schools to show why continuing 'needs-based' funding was essential.

Maurie Mulheron said: "The NSW National Party supports the full Gonski model because its members know the benefits of the additional resources going into rural schools."

"As we head towards the Federal Election, parents, principals and teachers will be holding Barnaby Joyce to account if he fails to deliver the fully funded Gonski model."

Maurie Mulheron is available for interview.

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