



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

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## NSW Teachers Federation Media Release

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### **REPORT REVEALS FUNDING THE FULL SIX YEARS OF GONSKI WILL SAVE \$72 BILLION.**

*29 April 2016*

A report commissioned by the Australian Education Union has demonstrated why it is essential that the Federal Government fund the final two years of the Gonski model.

The report, *Australian Schooling – The Price of Failure and Reward for Success* by economist Adam Rorris has found that there will be enormous economic costs to the nation if it fails to invest in education now.

“The Turnbull Government cannot keep ignoring the evidence that the additional Gonski funding is an investment in our nation’s future rather than a cost,” said NSW Teachers Federation President Maurie Mulheron.

The Rorris Report shows that while some students perform well in our schools, others are being left behind. The report reveals the effects of inequality in our education system and demonstrates the importance of meeting the needs of all students.

Weaker performing students are over-represented among the children of unemployed people, those in Indigenous communities and children whose parents are tradespeople or who work in office, sales or service occupations.

“Some of these children are having problems with their literacy and numeracy and it is vital that they be given the same opportunities as the children of professionals and senior managers who were found to perform better,” said Mr Mulheron.



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Mr Rorris found that giving all children the basic skills needed for work would save \$60 billion in unemployment benefits and produce an additional \$12 billion in tax revenues by 2070.

“In a wealthy country like Australia too many children are being left behind because the Federal Government refuses to make education funding a priority,” Mr Mulheron said.

“The Turnbull Government has so far failed to recognise what teachers and parents have seen in our schools and that is that Gonski funding has helped students with a range of educational needs which previously weren’t being adequately met.”

“That’s why it is vital that Malcolm Turnbull and Scott Morrison include the final two years of Gonski funding in next week’s Federal Budget.”

“We can’t afford to have children from disadvantaged backgrounds fall behind any longer which is why it is so important that the full six years of Gonski needs-based funding be completed,” Mr Mulheron said.

He said Gonski funding was already delivering improved results through smaller classes, one-to-one support and targeted literacy and numeracy programs.

“The Rorris Report demonstrates very clearly the links between disadvantage and poor performance at school, and the value of properly educating all students.”

“We have seen huge amounts of money pledged to naval shipbuilding, infrastructure building and even cyber warfare by this government in just the past week.”

“But Malcolm Turnbull has so far remained silent on education funding.”

Mr Mulheron said teachers and parents were urging the Prime Minister to think of the future and invest in education in next week’s budget and in the forthcoming Federal Election campaign.

“For years Australia directed schools funding to an advantaged minority and failed to provide resources to the schools most in need. This led to a fall in achievement levels such as a decline in the proportion of high performing



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students in mathematical literacy and resulted in an increase in the proportion of low performing students.” Mr Mulheron said.

“In contrast the much fairer Gonski funding model is starting to reverse this. It is needs-based and is already making a difference. We need that to continue.

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