



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

AEU NSW Teachers Federation Branch ABN 86 600 150 697

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NSW Teachers Federation Media Release

FEDERAL NATS NEED TO LIFT THEIR GAME ON GONSKI

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The New South Wales Teachers Federation believes that Federal Coalition MPs could do well to familiarise themselves with what's been happening in their local schools so they can understand why the Gonski model is good for kids in country areas.

Federal National MP Mark Coulton (Parkes, NSW) told his local newspaper, the Dubbo Daily Liberal, that schools in the area would not be worse off, despite losing more than \$24 million in funding because the Coalition has refused to fund the final two years of Gonski.

But at least some in the State National Party understand the value of properly funding and resourcing country schools.

NSW National MP Adam Marshall stood up to his Federal colleague today on Twitter.

ADAM MARSHALL @A_J_MARSHALL.

@MarkCoultonMP cannot agree with u Mark. Educational equity 4 country kids long denied by archaic funding model now being remedied by #Gonski.

"The Federal Nationals need to get behind the Gonski model because it supports small schools and children with the greatest needs," said NSW Teachers Federation President Maurie Mulheron.

"It is wrong for a Federal MP like Mark Coulton to suggest that Gonski is not the right policy setting to continue to deliver better educational outcomes for kids across Australia," Mr Mulheron said.

"Gonski has delivered extra funding to rural schools, disadvantaged schools and schools with a high proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children across rural and regional Australia."

Mr Mulheron said NSW Education Minister Adrian Piccoli was on the right track lobbying his Federal Coalition colleagues to fund the final two years of the Gonski model.

"We know extra funding based on the needs of children has delivered better educational outcomes for children in Dubbo and other needy schools across the state," he said.

"This is a sad example of a politician with his 'head in the sand,' for Mark Coulton to think Gonski funding hasn't delivered for our kids."

“His claim that schools won’t be worse off defies logic. Teachers know the value of Gonski funding, Adrian Piccoli knows it has given education across NSW an enormous boost and what we need is for Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Federal Education Minister Simon Birmingham to see the light as well.”

Mr Mulheron said the NSW Teachers Federation and the Australian Education Union were committed to making Gonski a major Federal Election issue.

“There is no greater funding need in our community at the moment than to properly resource education and continue to invest in our kids’ futures.”

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