



# Quality Schools

## Funding will be tied to reforms

### Commonwealth funding must be used to improve outcomes for students

Evidence from the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is clear that simply providing more funding does not in itself improve student outcomes. The OECD has found that for high-income countries like Australia it matters more *how* money is spent, than *how much* is spent.

A strong level of funding is necessary, and we have that, but what is more important is to ensure that funding is being used on initiatives proven to boost student results.

### Australian Government schools funding will be tied to reforms proven to lift student outcomes

From 2018, the Government's growing investment in schools will be distributed according to need and tied to the implementation of our evidence-based quality reforms proven to lift student achievement.

The Government's reform agenda was set out in [Quality Schools, Quality Outcomes](#), released in 2016. Key reforms include minimum literacy and numeracy standards for students, recognition for teachers based on competency and achievement and early intervention for struggling students.

The Government has established the *Review to Achieve Educational Excellence in Australian Schools*, to be chaired by Mr David Gonski AC, to provide advice on how the extra Commonwealth funding provided in the 2017 Budget should be invested to improve Australian schools' performance and grow student achievement.

The findings of the Review will inform the development of a new national schooling agreement between the Commonwealth and states that will drive reforms to turn around declining student performance.

Reforms requiring collaboration and cooperation across state and territory borders will be implemented through the Council of Australian Government's Education Council. Reforms better suited to local implementation and innovation will be outlined in bilateral plans to be agreed between the Commonwealth and each state and territory.

These plans will set out ambitious, innovative actions to improve student outcomes within the unique context and circumstance of each state and territory.

Delivery of reforms will be a condition of funding for states.

It is important that all schools in Australia benefit from the reform. Funding of \$125 million over five years will be provided to state-based non-government representative bodies to support implementation of national and state reforms in all non-government schools.

## States will be required to maintain funding

New funding arrangements will focus on student need with a Schooling Resource Standard, as recommended by the 2011 *Review of Funding for Schooling*, led by Mr David Gonski. A base amount will be provided for every student with additional funding for disadvantage.

The Commonwealth will contribute its fair share to the standard. It will be up to states whether they wish to reach the full standard for schools in their state.

States will, however, be required to at least maintain their real per student funding levels as a condition of Commonwealth funding.