

Media Release

Proof NSW Government slowed funding to its government schools

Funding analysis prepared for the NSW Teachers Federation shows the NSW Government has been underfunding its own government schools, Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW) said today.

The study - by education analyst Adam Rorris - concludes that the NSW government school system this year received \$470 million less from the NSW Government than is needed to meet the state's share of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS), the benchmark used to fund every student in Australia.

"This shortfall follows the so-called Gonski funding agreement signed by the NSW Government with then-Prime Minister Julia Gillard in 2013," CSNSW Chief Executive Dallas McInerney said.

"The NSW Education Minister at the time was Adrian Piccoli - now with the University of NSW's Gonski Institute for Education.

"During Mr Piccoli's tenure as Minister, funding growth for NSW public schools slowed to 6.8% over three years while the Federal Government increased its contribution by 16.4% over the same period.

Recurrent funding of NSW government schools, 2013 to 2016

Year	Commonwealth Government		NSW Government		Schooling Resource Standard
	\$/student	Growth	\$/student	Growth	Growth
2013	\$2,068		\$9,733		
2014	\$2,108	2.0%	\$9,951	2.2%	3.6%
2015	\$2,255	7.0%	\$10,100	1.5%	3.6%
2016	\$2,408	6.8%	\$10,394	2.9%	3.6%
Total growth		16.4%		6.8%	11.2%

Source: ACARA MySchool dataset

"This is a blatant exercise in cost-shifting by the NSW Government and is the real reason the state's government schools today receive less than the SRS," Mr McInerney said.

"Adrian Piccoli was Education Minister while NSW slowed its funding growth for government schools to less than 3% per year – well below the SRS growth rate of 3.6%.

"As the majority funder of its government schools, the NSW Government should have increased its funding by at least 3.6% per year. Had it done so, NSW government schools would have had some \$330 million extra in 2016 and much more today.

"We call on his successor, Rob Stokes, to properly fund NSW's government schools and to sign the agreement with the Commonwealth – the majority funder of non-government schools – to allow additional funds to flow for his state's low-fee non-government schools."

Catholic Schools NSW represents the state's 595 Catholic schools and their 255,000 students.

Media Contact: Jim Hanna | 0414 828 629 | jim.hanna@csnw.catholic.edu.au