



Ms Katy Gallagher
ACT Chief Minister
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CC: Ms Joy Burch, Minister for Education and Training, burch@act.gov.au

17 April 2013

RE: Implementation of the Gonski Review

Dear Ms Gallagher,

As the national and ACT peak bodies representing young people, the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition and Youth Coalition of the ACT believe that that we need in Australia, now, more than ever, to invest in a more equitable, transparent and well-funded education for all.

There is nothing more important than the education of all young people. Excellent education is one of the most significant investments that can be made in maximising happiness, health, civic cohesion and political participation. That is why we are urging you to take action on the recommendations of the Gonski Review.

We are seeing too many young people missing out on the resources they need and growing gaps in the achievements of students from different backgrounds. We therefore fully support the Gonski proposal of additional funding for students with greatest need and facing the greatest disadvantage.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to get the funding of education right in this country. It's a time for all jurisdictions to work together with the Federal Government at the April COAG meeting to ensure this happens.

This requires leadership and a greater financial commitment from all in education and our public schools. Young people should have first call on your budget rather than be told that giving them a high quality education is something we cannot afford. We know that investing more in our schools would make a real difference for all young people.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Cummings
Executive Director
Australian Youth Affairs Coalition

Emma Robertson
Director
Youth Coalition of the ACT

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