



Media Release

Gonski Provides Positive Steps for Philanthropy in Public Schools

The Public Education Foundation welcomes the findings of the Gonski Review of Funding for Schooling in relation to philanthropic fundraising for education.

“The findings are like a breath of fresh air for philanthropic efforts in public education,” said Verity Firth, Chief Executive of the Public Education Foundation.

“Crucially, the Review recognises that an even playing field does not currently exist between public and private schools when it comes to philanthropy,” explained Ms. Firth.

“The Review draws attention to the legal barriers that public schools face when seeking to raise funds. These barriers don’t exist for non-government schools.”

“The Review supports the work of foundations such as the Public Education Foundation that seek to encourage philanthropic fundraising for public schools, and recommends the establishment of national fund to promote philanthropy for the government school sector.

The fund would ‘act as an intermediary between government schools and businesses or other donors,’ and would ‘provide national leadership in philanthropy in schooling.’

“The Public Education Foundation supports federal government funding for philanthropy in public education and the idea of a national fund has great appeal. We call on the Federal Government to implement this finding from the Review.

The Review also recognizes the need for increased taxation incentives for donations to government schools, and recommends that the guidelines have sufficient flexibility to enable donations to be directed to the areas of greatest need.

“However, education philanthropy is not just about the money. Philanthropic contribution includes volunteering in our schools. This sort of philanthropy can have a real impact on education outcomes for our students and help build positive relations between local schools and their communities.”

“We welcome the Government’s announcement that Senator Jacinta Collins, Parliamentary Secretary for School Education and Workplace Relations, will be given responsibility to lead the work on capital funding and philanthropy,” Ms. Firth concluded.