**AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR THE DEFENCE OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS**

**PRESS RELEASE 452**

# GONSKI COMMITTEE SUMBISSIONS:

# PRIVATE SCHOOLS EXACERBATE INEQUITIES WITH

# VOUCHER SYSTEMS

# Academics and educationalists around Australia are generally expecting the Gonski Committee to recommend a version of the voucher system for Education Funding in Australia.

# If they do so,

# They will be reduced to a mere mouthpiece for aggressive sectarian interests in Australian society.

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# They will abandon almost two thirds of Australian children in public schools throughout Australia and

# They will make a nonsense of their stated aim, to *‘improve equity in education.’*

# Public school supporters should not be surprised if the Gonski Committee slavishly follows sectarian interests. Only one of the panel of ‘experts’ , Ken Boston, has any experience or known commitment to public education.

# Trevor Cobbold, of Save our Schools, has the following to say at: <http://www.saveourschools.com.au/funding/private-schools-will-get-a-funding-bonanza-from-voucher-models>

*School funding models proposed to the School Funding Review by Independent Schools Victoria (ISV) and the Centre for Independent Studies (CIS) feather the nest of private schools, especially the wealthiest schools. They would deliver a massive funding boost to private schools and give them a huge resource advantage over government schools. At best, government schools would get no additional funding and, at worst, a massive reduction in funding.*

*The proposals pander to greed rather than equity. They will exacerbate inequity in education. Massive funding increases will go to higher SES students in private schools rather than those most in need, the vast majority of who are in government schools.*

*The funding models are based on the idea that all students are entitled to the same level of public funding and that this entitlement should not be affected by the private income or wealth of the school. Such funding approaches are often referred to as voucher schemes.*

*The ISV proposes a universal voucher model under which all students in both government and private schools would receive the same base government funding entitlement topped up by equal loadings for students in certain categories of disadvantage. The CIS model is similar, but has reduced base funding for higher fee schools.*

*Neither the ISV nor the CIS cost their proposals. There can be little wonder at their reticence because they both provide billions of dollars in additional government funding for private schools.*

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