

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR THE DEFENCE OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

PRESS RELEASE 486#

THE POSITIVE POINTS ABOUT GONSKI

September 7th 2012

Julia Gillard succeeded in obtaining the moral initiative with her proposed response to the Gonski report.

The reaction of Tony Abbott and Christopher Pyne could have only lost them the public school vote.

But parents, teachers and pupils in the public system could have no illusions about Labor Party posturing. There is no \$6.5 billion promised for the immediate future. The following points however, should be made.

1. Gonski is recommending a student based 'resource standard' payment with top-ups for disadvantage. This is thinly veiled voucher system latched on to a 'Needs' policy. The religious sector have been playing the 'Needs' system, turning it into a 'Greeds' system for years. They will continue to do so. Public schools do not play this game. Nor can they do so. They are publicly accountable.
2. Things probably need to get worse before Australia learns from its nineteenth century history (the withdrawal of State Aid to religious schools in the years 1872-1895) and take over, rationalizes and run religious institutions as public schools. After all, public school taxpayers pay billions for institutions they cannot and do not wish to use. The payer cannot use...
3. To be 'positive' however, the worm is turning. No-one is calling the DOGS 'sectarian' these days. Business leaders are starting to realize that Australia is falling behind – way behind- the rest of the developed world. And successful nations like Finland are those that do not fund numerous parasitic religious systems.
4. Gonski has lifted the lid off the garbage bin which stinks of gross inequities, lies, and overfunding of 'greedy' religious schools. Researchers have yet to expose the uneconomic duplication of facilities involved in a denominational system. But, there are murmurings –
5. The Prime Minister's speech to the National Press Club revealed a person who understood the role the public system had played in her own life. But, for the moment, she is only playing the 'getting the moral initiative' game – with considerable success.

We live in very interesting educational times.

THE DOGS RADIO PROGRAM

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855 ON THE AM DIAL

12.00 NOON SATURDAYS