

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR THE DEFENCE OF GOVERNMENT

SCHOOLS

PRESS RELEASE 781

ELECTION YEAR:

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL VOTE AGAINST MORRISON

2019 is Election year –

Sooner rather than later?

Public school supporters have absolutely no reason to support a Coalition Government in the upcoming federal election.

And who can trust Shorten?

“Public school funding is a key consideration for parents and their voting intentions,” according to the AEU President Correna Haythorpe. “More than eight in ten respondents to a recent AEU poll said that education will be important in deciding who they will vote for at the upcoming federal election.

Not only have public school been [defrauded by Billions under new funding arrangements](#)

A New report from the Productivity Commission shows [entrenched inequality in public as opposed to private school funding](#)

But

Ten *Fair Funding Now!* vans are touring marginal electorate public schools in the lead up to the federal election.

DOGS note that Labor’s promises look better than Morrison’s preferential treatment of the private sector. But Shorten and Plibersek will pay off the private Catholic sector well before they give crumbs to our public schools.

But, these days, in Australian politics, voters have woken up that the two party stranglehold has frayed, and is at breaking point.

What do the Greens and independents have to offer?

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Public Schools Defrauded by Billions:

According to Trevor Cobbold of Save Our Schools, in a new Education Research Brief published on 6 February 2019, Public schools are being defrauded by billions under school funding agreements finalised at the end of last year between the Commonwealth and state/territory governments (“the states”). Public schools in all states except the ACT will be under-funded indefinitely while private schools in all states except the Northern Territory will be fully funded or more by 2023. Private schools also get more favourable phase-in arrangements than public schools.

Public schools will be defrauded of some \$60 billion over the period 2018 to 2027, an average of \$6 billion a year. The funding loss is due to two features of the agreements.

First, public schools in all states except the ACT will only ever be funded at 95% of their Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) at best and more likely less because the states have only committed to funding them at 75% of their SRS while the Commonwealth will only fund them to 20%. The extent of under-funding at present is extensive in several states – public schools are funded at less than 95% of their SRS in all states except Western Australia and the ACT and less than 90% in NSW, Queensland and the Northern Territory. The 95% target will not be achieved until at least 2027 and the cumulative loss until then is estimated at about \$41 billion.

Second, the states can claim expenditures not included in the SRS measure as part of their SRS target share up to 4% of their SRS. This represents a loss of funding required to meet state target shares. If the states take advantage of this special deal, the cumulative loss over the next decade is estimated at about \$19 billion.

Morrison’s Entrenched Inequality between Public and Private

According to the latest [Productivity Commission’s Report into Government Services \(ROGS\)](#), growth in per-student government funding for private schools last year was ten times greater than that for public schools.

Report findings also included:

- annual per student growth in funding private schools in 2016/17 was 3.7 per cent, compared with only 0.36 per cent for public schools
- private school funding per student has grown 2.7 times faster than public school funding per student in the last decade.
- government funding for public schools has grown by only 10.8% over the last ten years, whereas government funding for private schools has grown by 28.7%

ROGS shows the gap in funding growth between public and private schools is rapidly accelerating under the Morrison government. It demonstrates that the Morrison government’s

2017 school funding legislation entrenches inequality, preferences private schools over public schools and denies public schools the resources needed to provide a high quality education for their students.

This report provides the evidence that the Morrison government has clearly preferred private schools, while public schools have been denied the funding needed and will not reach 100% of the Schooling Resource School under their plan.

Election Strategies :Fair Funding Now Campaign

On February 5, 2019 the Australian Education Union (AEU) has deployed a fleet of green vans to schools around the country, where campaign teams are approaching parents to talk school funding.

AEU campaign teams will target parents in an intensive attack on Coalition school funding policy.

Ten *Fair Funding Now!* vans are touring marginal electorate public schools in the lead up to the federal election.

The fleet of *Fair Funding Now!* vans will reach out to local communities and drive home the importance of fairly funding public schools to make this election the ‘education election’.

Haythorpe said that the Coalition’s school funding policy is a “deliberate attack on public schools”.

Unfortunately, the AEU believe that the Labor Party will save public schools. They argue that

“Labor’s federal election commitment to invest \$14.1 billion in our public schools will repair much of the damage wreaked by the Morrison Government to public school funding,” and

“Bill Shorten’s \$3.3 billion commitment for public school funding in the first three years is a very welcome game-changer for public schools.”

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