

31 July 2024

Queensland students cannot be locked into another decade of entrenched underfunding

QUEENSLAND state schools are in dire need of full funding, not more roadblocks.

Today the Federal Education Minister Jason Clare has released additional details round the Better and Fairer Schools Agreement. However, the take it or leave it approach to state school funding he has adopted is not good enough.

Queensland Teachers' Union (QTU) President Cresta Richardson is calling on the federal and state governments to resolve their disagreements over their reform agreement and provide the full funding required to ensure Queensland state school students have the resources they need if they are to continue to receive a high-quality education.

"Increasing state school funding would represent an investment in our teachers, school leaders and our children. It would expand the opportunities children have to learn and give teachers more time to focus on meeting their needs.

"In the lead up to the last federal election, the Prime Minister promised to ensure that every state school was on the pathway to funding at 100 per cent of the schooling resource standard.

"We are gravely concerned about the take it or leave it approach of the Albanese government, which puts the Prime Minister on the brink of a broken promise.

"The deal on the table, of an additional 2.5 per cent from the Commonwealth or a rollover of the current agreement with no additional funding, does not deliver on the Federal Minister for Education's pledge and could entrench inequality in a way that we have not seen since the federal Coalition government was in power.

"Resources delayed are resources denied," Ms Richardson said.

"Queensland state schools are currently among the lowest funded in the country and have now waited over a decade for the resources they need to continue delivering a high-quality education for every child.

"Delivering full funding must be a joint commitment from both the federal and state governments, and right now, the offer from the Albanese Labor government is locking us into another decade of entrenched underfunding. The Queensland Teachers' Union supports the Miles government's demand that the Commonwealth contributes a further 5 per cent, in addition to the existing 20 per cent it currently provides.

"It's been more than a decade since a needs-based school funding model was established. Queensland state school students who are about to finish year 12 are among the first cohort to be promised this funding, yet they have still not had the full benefits they were entitled to.

"Time is running out on this issue, and school parents, leaders and teachers expect the federal and Queensland governments to work together to deliver full funding for Queensland state schools."

The Albanese government must show leadership and deliver a minimum of 25 per cent of state school funding in every state and territory, without additional roadblocks.

ENDS

Media contact: Cresta Richardson, President, Queensland Teachers' Union

Phone 07 3512 9000 | media@qtu.asn.au | www.qtu.asn.au/media