



WACSSO

WA Council of State School Organisations Inc.

2013 FEDERAL ELECTION 'REPORT CARD'



WACSSO

Supporting parents, supporting public schools

WACSSO
PO Box 6295
151 Royal Street
East Perth WA 6892

Ph: 9264 4000
Fax: 9264 4948
www.wacssso.wa.edu.au
info@wacssso.wa.edu.au

2013 Federal Election ‘Report Card’

Introduction

Australia will hold its Federal Government election on Saturday, September 7, 2013. On the cusp of implementing once in a generation school funding reforms that aim to improve equity in our system, The Western Australian Council of State School Organisations Inc. (WACSSO) believes that Education is without a doubt, the most important issue of this election.

WACSSO produced a Federal Election Position Paper in July 2013, setting its position on three key Federal issues pertinent to education in WA. This position paper has informed the nature of lobbying by WACSSO and its affiliates, more than 680 P&C Associations state-wide, to political candidates, members and parties, in the lead up to the election.

Each major political party has outlined some of its policies and vision for the future of education in Australia. WACSSO requested specific response from the Australian Liberal Party, Australian Labor Party and The Australian Greens on each of the issues addressed in the Position Paper. Disappointingly, the responses received were either limited or absent so a combination of responses and research has informed the summary of education-related announcements, commitments and policies included in this “Election Report Card.”

WACSSO encourages individuals to use this document as an aid in deciding who will receive their vote on September 7.

Position Paper Key Issue



Aus
Labor
Party



Aus
Liberal
Party



The
Aus
Greens

FEDERAL EDUCATION FUNDING REFORMS

National Plan for School Improvement
(Better Schools/Gonski)

A	C	A
---	---	---

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Digital Education Revolution

C	NA	C
NA	NA	NA

National Curriculum

EDUCATION WELFARE PAYMENTS

Schoolkids Bonus

B	F	B
---	---	---

GRADE KEY

A Policy conforms with WACSSO position

B Policy mostly conforms with WACSSO position

C Policy partially conforms with WACSSO position

F Policy does not conform with WACSSO position

NA No Policy Announced / Did not respond

Federal Education Funding Reforms

National Plan for School Improvement (Better Schools/Gonski)

POSITION:

- WACSSO fully supports the recommendations in the Federal Review of Funding for Schooling Report (Gonski Report) and would like to see the broad principles implemented as a more equitable funding model throughout Australia.
- WACSSO calls for a new Federal funding model for schools, based on the recommendations of the Gonski Review, be implemented throughout Australia.
- That each major political party explain its' commitment to and plan for, the future of Federal funding of schools.

GRADE DETAILS



A

- Committed to implementing Better Schools finding reforms, injecting an extra \$10 billion over six years towards schools.
- States that have not signed an agreement (WA has not signed) will not receive any Commonwealth funding from Better Schools.



C

- Would invest \$2.8 billion over four years towards Gonski funding.
- States that have not signed an agreement would still get the Commonwealth portion of Gonski funding for one year.
- No long term commitment to fairer Gonski framework.



A

- Support Labor's Better Schools funding reforms to inject \$10 billion in Gonski funding over six years. (\$920 million for WA)
- Would commit an extra \$2 billion for public schools to get their share of Gonski funding sooner.

Information Communication Technology

Digital Education Revolution

POSITION:

- Once digital technology becomes a core part of education, it should be an ongoing Government responsibility.
- WACSSO calls for funding for the provision of computers on a 1:1 ratio to be continued for all high school students, with an adequate sum to be provided on top of the amount for each computer for technical and maintenance support.
- Funding to be provided for ongoing staff training in the delivery of curriculum on ICT devices and to ensure all schools have the most up to date Standard Operating Environment (SOE).
- All schools must have access to consistent, reliable internet access with speeds that will enable the effective and efficient delivery of curriculum and school operations.

GRADE DETAILS



C

- 1:1 computer fund ended June 30 2013.
- ALP states that Better Schools Funding will replace the Computer Fund program and provide adequate funds for all ICT needs. **(WA has not signed up to Better Schools, so will not receive the funding)**
- Currently implementing the National Broadband Network, to provide high speed internet (up to 1Gbps) to 93% of Australian homes, schools and businesses, with the remaining 7% of premises to access the NBN through fixed wireless and satellite technologies.



NA

- Did not answer two requests for response on WACSSO Position Paper.
- Committed to NBN plan installing fibre-optic cable to the node and copper to the home (download speeds for all premises 25-100mbps by 2016)



C

- Broad support for Better Schools, meaning more money for technology.
- No ICT-specific policy items.
- Did not answer request for response on WACSSO Position Paper.

Information Communication Technology

National Curriculum

POSITION:

- WACSSO calls for ongoing assessment and verification of all electronic learning resources.
- WACSSO calls for the 'My School' website to include data stating the speed, quality and availability of each school's internet access so that the delivery of the National Curriculum at an individual school level can be assessed against their ability to fully use electronic curriculum delivery and learning resources.

GRADE DETAILS



NA

- Did not answer request for response on WACSSO Position Paper, so no known commitment.



NA

- Did not answer request for response on WACSSO Position Paper, so no known commitment.



NA

- No ICT-specific policy items.
- Did not answer request for response on WACSSO Position Paper.

Education Welfare Payments

Schoolkids Bonus

POSITION:

- A fundamental role of Government is to fully fund education at public expense at a level that enables the best possible provision of that education, and to ensure access to a school experience of the highest quality is not dependent on capacity or willingness to make a financial contribution. For the sake of equity, support should be provided to those families unable to provide resources for students to meet core education demands.
- WACSSO calls for the Schoolkids Bonus to continue as a bi-annual payment to eligible families and for the payment to be indexed with inflation.
- WACSSO calls for both major parties to commit to funding the School Kids Bonus in 2013 and beyond.

GRADE DETAILS



B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Committed to maintaining the payment.- No commitment to indexing the payment with inflation.
----------	---



F	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Announced it will axe the payment completely if elected.
----------	--



B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Supports continuation of the payment.- Believes everyone has the right to access adequate resources to allow them to fully participate in society.- No Schoolkids Bonus specific policy items.
----------	--