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WACSSO Inc.

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# 2016 Federal Election REPORT CARD

June 2016

# 2016 Federal Election ‘Report Card’

## Introduction

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Australia will hold its Federal Government election on Saturday, July 2, 2016. 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 May 2016, setting its position on four key Federal issues pertinent to education in WA. This position paper has informed the nature of lobbying by WACSSO and its affiliates, more than 645 P&C Associations state-wide, to political parties, in the lead up to the election.

Comment was sought from the Australian Liberal Party, Australian Labor Party and The Australian Greens on each of the issues addressed in the Position Paper. Disappointingly, no party responded to WACSSO by the requested date of 10<sup>th</sup> June. Publicly available information about the parties’ policies 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 July 2.

## Position Paper Key Issue



Aus  
Labor  
Party



Aus  
Liberal  
Party



The  
Aus  
Greens

### FUNDING FOR AN EQUITABLE EDUCATION

The full Gonski commitment

Educating students with disabilities

<b>A</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>C</b>	

### INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Internet Access for a digital education

<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>
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### THE WELLBEING & WELFARE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Support for parents in the provision of children's education resources

Continue funding student support with a reversion to the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program

<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	
<b>A</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>

### ENCOURAGING PHILANTHROPY IN SCHOOLS

Extending Schools Plus to ensure eligibility for all government schools

<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>
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### 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

### The full Gonski commitment

#### WACSSO CALLS FOR:

1. That the Federal Government honour its initial funding commitment for schools, based on the recommendations of the Gonski Review.
2. That each major political party explain its commitment to and plan for, the future of Federal funding of schools, 2016 and beyond.

#### GRADE DETAILS



A

- Previously adopted the reforms and put in place a six-year transition to a national school funding model.
- Committed and costed a permanent and ongoing shift to needs-based funding in our schools



F

- Refused to commit to the final two years of the Gonski funding reforms, committing \$1.2 billion between providing an additional \$1.2 billion between 2018 and 2020, leaving a \$4.5 billion shortfall.
- Announced Students First approach...



A

- Support a sector-blind, needs-based school funding system

## Federal Education Funding Reforms cont'd

### Educating students with disabilities

#### WACSSO CALLS FOR:

1. That government funds all students with disability on the basis of need by honouring the initial funding commitment for schools, based on the recommendations of the Gonski Review.
2. That each major political party explain its commitment to and plan for, the funding of support at school for students with a disability as determined by the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability.

#### GRADE DETAILS



A

- \$320 million from 2017 in additional funding – more than reversing the Turnbull Government’s cuts to the More Support for Students with Disabilities program.
- Agreed to implement the recommendations of the Senate Inquiry into the Education and Attainment of Students with Disability



C

-



THE GREENS

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## Information Communication Technology (ICT)

### Internet access for a digital education

#### WACSSO CALLS FOR:

1. A commitment to ensuring imminent, high speed internet access for all students, including adequate provision for students in rural and remote areas of Western Australia.
2. 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 Australian Curriculum at an individual school level can be assessed against their ability to fully use electronic curriculum delivery and learning resources.

#### GRADE DETAILS



**B**

- Will continue with the Coalition's plans to deliver NBN services on upgraded versions of Telstra and Optus' hybrid fibre coax (HFC) infrastructure.
- Will phase out the Coalition's Fibre To The Node (FTTN) technology beyond the existing pipeline of works, allowing up to 2 million extra households and businesses to connect to Fibre To The Home technology.
- No significant changes to the fixed wireless and satellite parts of the network.



**C**

-



**B**

-




## The wellbeing and welfare of young people

### Support for parents in the provision of children’s education resources

#### WACSSO CALLS FOR:

1. Support for families that are unable to provide adequate educational resources for their children, in order that children facing disadvantage have an equal opportunity to participate in education as their advantaged counterparts.

#### GRADE DETAILS

	<p><b>F</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will not restore the Schoolkids Bonus</li> <li>- No known replacement or alternative support</li> </ul>
	<p><b>F</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Axed the Schoolkids Bonus</li> <li>- No known replacement or alternative support</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-</li> </ul>

## The wellbeing and welfare of young people cont'd

### Continue funding student support with a reversion to the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program

#### WACSSO CALLS FOR:

1. A commitment to continue funding for student support beyond 2017-18.
2. A commitment to fund secular student welfare workers, as well as Chaplains, under a renewed National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program.

#### GRADE DETAILS



A

- Broadened the National School Chaplaincy Program into the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program.
- No response on whether they intend to return the program to include secular welfare workers



F

- Axed the provision of funding for secular student welfare workers and changed the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program to the National School Chaplaincy Program



A

-



## Encouraging philanthropy in schools

### Extending Schools Plus to ensure eligibility for all government schools

#### WACSSO CALLS FOR:

1. The Federal Government to allow all public schools, regardless of ICSEA rating, the ability to undertake projects through Australian Schools Plus.

#### GRADE DETAILS



NA

- No response



NA

- No response



NA

- No response