

# gonski factsheet



## Questions and Answers

### Q. What is so important about the Gonski Review?

A. *Set up by the Federal Government in 2010, the Gonski Review was the most comprehensive review of the way schools are funded in Australia in almost 40 years. It was conducted by an expert panel headed by senior businessman David Gonski. The final report was released in February 2012. The review examined the adequacy of the way schools are funded and what was required to ensure Australia has a school system which is among the best in the world for quality and equity. Its recommendations give us a once in a generation opportunity to ensure all students are receiving a high quality education.*

### Q. What are the key findings and recommendations of Gonski?

A. *The Gonski Review found Australia is investing far too little in education and, in particular, in public schools. As a consequence, too many students are missing out on the resources they need and there are growing gaps in the performance of students from different backgrounds. It recommended an urgent shift to a funding system that better targets funding to meet the needs of students and a substantial increase in the total amount spent on schools.*

### Q. What would implementing the recommendations of Gonski mean for local public schools?

A. *Local public schools across Australia would benefit from more resources. Increases in funding would vary based on a school's location, size and the needs of the students. The average increase would be around \$1,500 a student a year. That money would be invested in ways that we know help students learn such as:*

- *Smaller class sizes;*
- *Extra specialist teachers in areas such as literacy and numeracy;*
- *Greater support for students with higher needs such as those with disabilities;*
- *Additional training and classroom support for teachers.*



**Q. What has been the response from the politicians in Canberra to the Gonski Review's findings?**

**A.** *So far there has been no commitment to deliver the additional funding that Gonski warned is so urgently required for our children. Labor has committed to introducing legislation based on the recommendations this year but no timetable has been set. The Coalition says there should be no changes to the existing system until at least 2017.*

**Q. What will happen if the additional funding and changes recommended by Gonski are not delivered?**

**A.** *The review makes it clear that the cost of inaction for students and our country will be significant. A lack of resources will continue to hold back too many students and make it harder for them to get the skills and knowledge they need for secure, well-paid jobs. The economic and social cost for our country of failing to lift student performance and help students overcome disadvantage will also be significant. As the Review stated: "Australia will only slip further behind unless, as a nation, we act and act now."*

**Q. What can I do to help?**

**A.** *Our politicians need to know that denying children the resources they need is unacceptable. Please visit the campaign website [www.igiveagonski.com.au](http://www.igiveagonski.com.au) to register your support for better funding. You can also send an email there to the Prime Minister.*