

NGO Leaders for Educational Opportunity

Media release

For immediate distribution

24 May 2013

NGO Leaders congratulate Premier Lara Giddings' commitment to education

NGO Leaders for Educational Opportunity congratulates the Premier of Tasmania for her leadership in committing to implementing needs based school funding for Tasmania.

"Premier Giddings should be applauded for putting the young people of Tasmania first," said Ricky Campbell-Allen, Director of the Centre for New Public Education. "In the interests of a better education system for all Tasmanian students, we now want to understand how Tasmania intends to implement needs based funding."

NGO Leaders for Educational Opportunity, comprising leading non-government organisations, recently signed an open letter to COAG members urging them to put aside political differences and deliver nationally on school funding reform.

The group, which includes representatives from the Foundation for Young Australians' Centre for New Public Education, The Smith Family, Mission Australia, Brotherhood of St Laurence, UnitingCare Australia, St Vincent de Paul Society, ACOSS and the Public Education Foundation, congratulated Premier Giddings for her vision and leadership.

The group believes current funding arrangements are inconsistent and do not effectively support disadvantaged students.

"I congratulate the Tasmanian Government, as need based funding is an important part of supporting young people to reach their full potential," said Dr Lisa O'Brien, CEO of The Smith Family.

"Currently significant numbers of young Australians, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, are not achieving key educational outcomes. This has to change in the interests of Australia's current and future prosperity," said Dr O'Brien.

"An effective school funding system is the first step towards delivering a world class education for all young Australians," said Verity Firth, Chief Executive of the Public Education Foundation. "The decision by the Tasmanian Government today shows that states recognise needs based funding as the fairest way to fund all schools."

"I commend Premier Giddings on her leadership," said Ms Firth "It's now up to other state governments to put the needs of their students and young people first."

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Media enquiries:

Carlita Bevege, Foundation for Young Australians | carlita.bevege@fya.org.au | 0434 220 496

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NGO Leaders for Educational Opportunity includes: Anglicare, Ardoch Youth Foundation, Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS), Beacon Foundation, The Benevolent Society, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Dusseldorp Skills Forum, Foundation for Young Australians, Good Beginnings Australia, Mission Australia, Public Education Foundation, The Smith Family, Social Ventures Australia and UnitingCare Australia.

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NGO Leaders congratulate Premier Lara Giddings' commitment to education - continued

Available for interviews:

- Ricky Campbell-Allen, Director, Centre for New Public Education
- Hon. Verity Firth, former NSW Minister for Education and Training and CEO, Public Education Foundation
- Dr Lisa O'Brien, CEO, Smith Family
- Jan Owen, AM, CEO, Foundation for Young Australians
- Cassandra Goldie, CEO, ACOSS
- Kasy Chambers, Executive Director, Anglicare
- Mandy Burns, CEO, Ardoch Youth Foundation
- Jayne Meyer Tucker, CEO, Good Beginnings Australia
- Anne Hollands, CEO, Benevolent Society

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- Good Beginnings Australia
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- UnitingCare Australia