

# NGO Leaders for Educational Opportunity

## Media release

### For immediate distribution

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## NGO Leaders congratulate Premier Jay Weatherill, ask others to show leadership

Fifteen of Australia's leading non-government community organisations have unanimously congratulated the Premier of South Australia for his leadership in signing the National Education Reform Agreement.

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

"Premier Weatherill should be applauded for putting the young people of South Australia first," said Simon Schrapel, Chief Executive, Uniting Communities. "Other states need to step up and implement a needs based funding model."

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 on school funding reform.

"I congratulate the South Australian Government on this historic step," said Graham Jaeschke, South Australian General Manager of The Smith Family. "I urge other states to follow South Australia, NSW and the ACT and realise their shared commitment to supporting young people to reach their full potential."

"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 Mr Jaeschke.

"An effective school funding system is the first step towards delivering a world class education for all young Australians," said Peter Sandeman, CEO, Anglicare SA. "The decision by the South Australian Government today shows that states recognise needs based funding as the fairest way to fund all schools."

"This is good for students, good for schools and good for South Australia," said Mr Sandeman "It's now up to other state governments to put the needs of their students and young people first."

The group, which includes representatives from the Foundation for Young Australians Centre for New Public Education, Anglicare Australia, The Smith Family, Mission Australia, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Uniting Care Australia, St Vincent de Paul Society, ACOSS and the Public Education Foundation, congratulated Premier Weatherill for his vision and leadership.

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**'NGO Leaders for Educational Opportunity' includes:** Anglicare Australia, 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, St Vincent de Paul Society, and UnitingCare Australia.

# NGO Leaders for Educational Opportunity

## NGO Leaders congratulate Premier Jay Weatherill, ask others to show leadership – continued

### Available for interviews:

- Simon Schrapel, Chief Executive, Uniting Communities
- Graham Jaeschke, South Australian General Manager of The Smith Family
- Peter Sandeman, CEO, Anglicare SA

### NGO Leaders for Educational Opportunity:

- Anglicare Australia
- Ardoch Youth Foundation
- Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)
- Beacon Foundation
- The Benevolent Society
- Brotherhood of St Laurence
- Dusseldorp Skills Forum
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- UnitingCare Australia