

NGO Leaders for Educational Opportunity

Media release

For immediate distribution

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NGO leaders congratulate Premier Napthine, urge others to step up

NGO Leaders for Educational Opportunity congratulates Premier Denis Napthine on committing to sign up to the Better Schools plan and implement a fairer funding model for all young Victorians.

NGO Leaders for Educational Opportunity, comprising leading non-government organisations, has been urging all COAG members to put aside political differences and deliver on school funding reform.

“Premier Napthine should be applauded for putting the needs of young people first,” said The Hon. Verity Firth, CEO of the Public Education Foundation. “The remaining states need to step up and implement a needs based funding model.”

“Australia is very close to having a fairer, needs-based school funding model,” said Ricky Campbell-Allen, Director of the Centre for New Public Education. “I urge Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory to join the rest of our states and territories, and the Independent and Catholic sectors, and fulfil their shared commitment to supporting all young Australians to reach their full potential.”

“The decision by the Victorian Government, as well as the Federal Coalition’s commitment to match the Commonwealth Government’s funding for four years, shows that governments do recognise needs based funding as the fairest way to fund all schools,” continued Ms Campbell-Allen.

“An effective school funding system is the first step towards delivering a world class education for all young people,” 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,” continued Dr O’Brien.

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, UnitingCare Australia, St Vincent de Paul Society, ACOSS and the Public Education Foundation, congratulates Premier Napthine for his foresight and leadership.

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Available for interviews:

- Ricky Campbell-Allen, Director, Centre for New Public Education
- John Falzon, CEO, St Vincent de Paul Society
- The Hon. Verity Firth, CEO, Public Education Foundation
- Dr Lisa O'Brien, CEO, The Smith Family

NGO Leaders for Educational Opportunity:

- Anglicare Australia
- Ardoch Youth Foundation
- Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)
- Beacon Foundation
- Centre for New Public Education
- 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
- UnitingCare Australia