



PRIME MINISTER

Reference: MS17-002795

13 JUL 2017

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier of Victoria
GPO Box 4912VV
MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Premier

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Malcolm', written over the word 'Premier'.

On 22 June 2017, my Government successfully legislated its *Quality Schools* reforms and will invest an additional \$23.4 billion in recurrent funding for Australian schools over the next ten years (2018 – 2027).

The amendments we have made to the *Australian Education Act 2013* (the Act) will deliver a better, fairer and truly needs-based Commonwealth school funding model. By the end of the decade, every student, irrespective of the state or territory they live in, will receive funding from the Commonwealth based on a consistent formula.

Under section 22(2) of the Act, payments by the Commonwealth Government will require that states and territories be party to a national reform agreement with the Commonwealth, supported by bilateral implementation agreements. This recognises our collective and long standing commitment to national efforts to improve outcomes for Australian students.

The Commonwealth Minister for Education and Training, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham has written to his state and territory counterparts proposing that all jurisdictions now work together to reach agreement on the *School funding and reform principles* by the end of this year to enable funding to flow from January 2018, with a new national reform agreement to be negotiated in 2018. With the amended legislation now in place and the processes for the development of a new agreement now in train, the Commonwealth will, as advised in 2014, withdraw from the National Education Reform Agreement (NERA) and the National Education Agreement with effect from 31 December 2017.

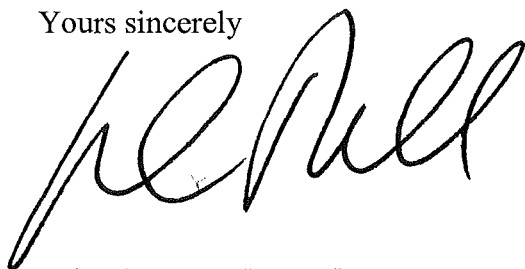
Having delivered long-term nationally consistent funding for schools, I am committed to working with you to ensure the additional Commonwealth funding is used by schools to improve student achievement and school performance.

The *Review to Achieve Educational Excellence in Australian Schools*, chaired by David Gonski AC, will make recommendations on the most effective teaching and learning strategies to reverse declining results and raise the performance of schools and students. All jurisdictions will have the opportunity to have input into the Review, consider its outcomes and how best to reflect these outcomes in the new national reform agreement and associated bilateral agreements.

As the majority funder of government schools, states and territories play a crucial role. I look forward to working with you on this historic reform path that puts student need first, will make a real difference for Australian schools and deliver real improvements to student outcomes.

I have copied this letter to Minister Birmingham.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Turnbull', with a small dot to the right of the signature.

MALCOLM TURNBULL