

CHECK OUT

CCJP

July 2013

Election 2013 – Policy Positions: Education

This is the 3rd in a series of CCJP Check Outs on key Election Policy issues.

Labor Party:

- Gonski report reform is a commitment to increased spending on Education worth a total of an extra \$14.5billion in Federal and State funding.
- Gonski reforms to be phased in from 2014-2020.
- Gonski will enable Australia to be a top 5 nation globally in reading, science & maths by 2025.
- Gonski will counter the fall in Australian education performance since 2000.
- Gonski will provide a resource standard for primary students of \$9,271 per student; \$12,193 for each secondary student.
- This is 6.5billion in extra funding per year divided between Federal and state governments, states increasing funding by 3% to receive a 4% rise from Federal funding.
- To fund Gonski, \$2.3billion will be taken from higher education, leaving funding per student unchanged at present levels.
- Expansion of Tax Refund scheme for eligible parents.
- Early intervention services for children with disabilities diagnosed by age 13. Parents and student accessibility to national on-line assessment and learning bank through the NBN.
- Rewards for School Improvement Program as incentives to improve school attendance and student performance; \$75,000 for primary, \$100,000 for secondary.
- Access to the Australian Baccalaureate, a national education credential.
- No School, No Play Initiative in partnership with sporting bodies, to increase school attendance.
- Teach Next, partly funded intensive training for professionals to become teachers.

The ABC's of the parties policies



- Empowering Local Schools; giving participating schools greater responsibility over budgets, staff selection/employment.
- Financial support for transition by government and non-government schools to increase independence.
- National Trade Cadetships for students in years 9-12 under the National Curriculum.
- 1,000 additional schools to be provided with chaplaincy services including remote areas.

Liberal Coalition :

- Education should be a pathway to prosperity.
- Maintain funding equity for existing schools and help new schools to grow
- Re-introduce Establishment Grants for new schools outside the public system
- Increase autonomy for schools; unshackle school Principals from union prescribed rules.
- The community knows best for staff selection.
- Flexibility to use financial resources
- arranging "a federation of schools to pool resources"
- Restructure National Partnerships to by-pass state governments to provide flexibility and autonomy for Principals
- Pay unspent BER money directly to schools.
- Strengthen National Safe School Framework to address bullying and discipline
- Continue National School Chaplaincy funding
- National Curriculum to ensure studies of educational basics and fundamentals about the nation's history and structure
- Revision of MySchool website to publish overall school improvements
- Increased NAPLAN testing
- Languages teaching in schools and universities to increase global understanding of issues and markets
- Creation of \$1billion Regional Education Fund to overcome regional area underachievement
- \$15billion for Secure Schools program to improve school safety and security
- \$200million for Better Teacher fund; preference given to teachers in remote areas
- Technology funding grants to be given directly to schools on basis of need and want

The Green Party:

- Education is a public good and should provide universal access to high quality education.
- Education should be free & well funded.
- Government has primary responsibility for all levels of education; early childhood, to vocational and university.
- Salaries and conditions for teachers at all levels should recognise professionalism and career paths.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education should match that provided for the rest of the population with significant input from their own communities.
- Properly funded TAFE and vocational education and training.
- Provision of living allowances for full time and VET studies.
- Universities need to be places of learning, research and academic freedom
- Funding should be on basis of equity and transparency with no advantage to non-government schools over public, government schools.

- Extension of Education Rebate for primary and secondary students as well as expenses claims for eligible parents
- Expansion of rebates for government and non-government school fees.
- Clear categories for students with disabilities
- Incremental introduction \$314, over forward estimates, as portable funding for an Education Card worth up to \$20,000 pa for students with disabilities.
- Abbott supports Gonski "in principle" but rejects Labor's proposals, preferring to "fine tune" existing system.
- Education (Christopher Pyne) should be about "values" and "more traditional" teaching methods.

- Unions are the appropriate representatives of educators.
- There should be diversity in existing schools and that this is not endangered by the development of new private schools. There should be non-discrimination in hiring staff and student selection.
- Greens support Gonski but are critical of government "underspend" on education.

Sources:

(Centre for Policy Development, The Party's websites & policy statements)

N.B.: In some cases the Parties have only set out principles not specific policies & strategies. However it is possible to see some clear differences in some of the approaches on the issues.



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