

Statement of Intent

Better and Fairer Schools Agreement

"We are committed to ensuring every Western Australian public school is on a path to reach 100 per cent of the Schooling Resource Standard – the fair funding level."

Australia has a good education system but it can be better and fairer.

To ensure all schools get on a pathway to full and fair funding, the Commonwealth and Western Australian State Government have jointly committed to achieving a Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) of 100 per cent in 2026, up from 95 per cent currently. The Commonwealth commits to provide Western Australian government schools with an additional 2.5 per cent of SRS, increasing its contribution to 22.5 per cent. The Western Australian Government, as the primary funders of government schools, commits to achieving an SRS contribution of at least 77.5 per cent, and see that the most disadvantaged schools receive additional funding first.

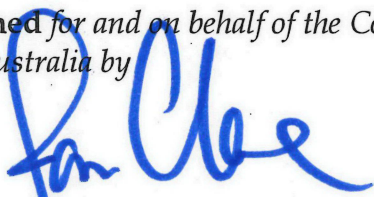
This funding will drive reforms that help improve outcomes for all students, especially for students from low socio-economic backgrounds; regional, rural and remote Australia; students with disability; First Nations students and students from a language background other than English. That is why we agree that the additional Commonwealth funding will be tied to reforms that ensure no child in a Western Australian public school is held back or left behind.

Recognising the key role that education plays in improving social equity, lifting social and economic outcomes for individuals and their communities, all governments are committed to working in partnership to negotiate the next Better and Fairer Schools Agreement. Our governments acknowledge the importance of continuing our commitments made under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap by ensuring reforms tied to additional funding under the next Better and Fairer Schools Agreement contributes to meeting those commitments.

To represent a shared commitment to improving Australia's education system, national commitments will be contained within the next Better and Fairer Schools Agreement Heads of Agreement. Reform that supports the needs and local context of individual States and Territories will be agreed through Bilateral Agreements. Working together, these new agreements will build our education system into one where every child can meet their potential.

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

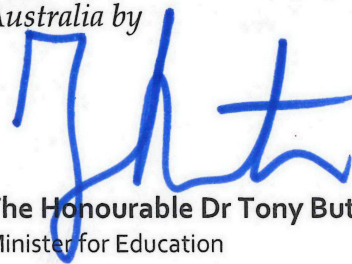
Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth
of Australia by



The Honourable Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education

Date: 31 January 2024

Signed for and on behalf of the state of Western
Australia by



The Honourable Dr Tony Buti MLA
Minister for Education

Date: 31 January 2024