

FULLY FUNDED PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Australian Greens' school funding policy

For too long, Labor and Liberal Governments have made special deals with private schools that continue to see public schools underfunded.

The Greens are the party of public education and are committing to the largest investment in public education of any party.



THE GREENS WILL:

- **Ensure every public school reaches 100% of the Schooling Resource Standard by 2023** by investing \$20.5 billion over the next ten years, legislating to remove the cap on Commonwealth contributions to public schools and cancelling the special deals for private schools.
- **Increase the Capital Grants Program funding to \$400 million a year** to build the teaching and learning facilities our schools need. We will expand the Program to include public schools and guarantee 80% of the fund, \$320 million per year, for public schools.
- **Work to reverse cuts to funding for students with a disability** and ensure that the disability funding tiers match the actual cost of delivering high quality education to all students.

FULLY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Greens are unashamedly the party of public education. With public money, public schools have to come first. Under the Coalition Government, billions have been cut from school funding. If we don't make a big investment in public education, just 13% of public schools will have the funding to meet their minimum needs by 2023, while 65% of non-government schools will be overfunded.

On top of this already unfair system, the Coalition has handed over an extra \$4.6 billion to private schools, while public schools will get no extra funding. At the same time, 93% of public school teachers dip into their own pocket to buy stationery and classroom equipment¹ to make up for the lack of Government funding. Disappointingly, Labor has refused to rip up this deal and direct the money to public schools.

The Greens will make an unprecedented investment in our public schools. We will invest \$20.5 billion in public schools over the next decade. Under our plan, the Commonwealth contribution to the Schooling Resource Standard will increase to 25%, ensuring all public schools receive 100% of the funding needed to provide a quality education to their students by 2023.

We will work with states and territories to ensure they maintain their commitment to funding at least 75% of the Schooling Resource Standard. This makes the Greens the only party with a plan to guarantee all public schools are fully funded to meet the needs of their students and teachers.

THE CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAM

Public schools around the country are suffering under aging and unsafe infrastructure. More than one in ten classrooms in New South Wales are temporary demountables, and students and staff in South-East Queensland swelter through temperatures higher than forty degrees without air conditioning in summer.

We need better quality, more comfortable and safer learning environments for our students and teachers. The current Capital Grants Program offers Commonwealth funding to disadvantaged non-government schools, but completely excludes public schools which need funding to improve infrastructure the most.

The Greens will increase Capital Grants funding to \$400 million a year and include public schools in the Program.



We will guarantee 80% of the funding, \$320m a year, to public schools because they teach the majority of disadvantaged students². This will ensure no future Government can use the Capital Grants Program as a slush fund for private schools.

REVERSING DISABILITY FUNDING CUTS

Our public education system must be able to meet the individual needs of students to make sure all children are able to receive a world-class education.

The Liberal government's cuts to disability funding have left students to fall through the cracks. It's unacceptable that schools providing additional support to students with disability are not receiving adequate funding to do so. With 74% of students with disabilities attending public schools, it's vital that every student is receiving the fully funded support they need.

The Greens will work to reverse cuts to funding for students with a disability and ensure that the disability funding tiers match the actual cost of delivering high quality education.

FUNDING OUR PLAN

We will fund our package by reversing the Coalition's income tax cuts that disproportionately benefit high income earners, raising \$13.4 billion over the next four years alone.

¹ NSW Teachers Federation, "Nine in ten public school teachers use own money for student supplies: survey", <https://news.nswtf.org.au/blog/news/2018/10/nine-ten-public-school-teachers-use-own-money-student-supplies-survey>

² Ken Boston, "Our school funding system is unfair and holding Australia back," ABC Online, <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-04-13/our-school-funding-system-is-unfair-and-holding-australia-back/8435300>

ADDITIONAL COMMONWEALTH RECURRENT FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

State	Total Forward Estimates (\$m)	Total Ten Years (\$m) ³
NSW	\$1,436	\$6,450
Queensland	\$1,007	\$4,523
ACT	\$65	\$291
Victoria	\$1,057	\$4,749
Tasmania	\$110	\$493
South Australia	\$320	\$1,438
Western Australia	\$499	\$2,239
Northern Territory	\$60	\$334
TOTAL	\$4,554	\$20,517

³ Estimates only, subject to enrolment growth assumptions and awaiting final PBO baseline updates reflecting MYEFO 2018-19."