

MEDIA RELEASE - 7 September 2012

School Education Funding Reform Committee to progress national reform

The Chair of the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood, the Hon Peter Collier MLC, today announced the establishment of a School Education Funding Reform Committee, comprising Ministers with responsibility for School Education, to progress school funding reform.

The decision is a consequence of a meeting of SCSEEC Ministers, chaired by Minister Collier, and follows the Australian Government's announcement regarding a National Plan for School Improvement earlier this week.

"Effective school funding mechanisms are essential to ensuring equity and excellence in Australia's schools, which underpin Australia's economic future.

All Ministers are keen to engage in a national dialogue regarding potential reforms and today's decision to establish a dedicated forum to consider such proposals is an important step", Minister Collier said.

Ministers agreed that further work by senior officials to support the Committee's deliberations, including modeling the economic and social consequences of proposals, should continue.

A series of meetings of Ministers will be scheduled between now and the end of the year to consider potential funding reform proposals, with a view to providing advice to COAG early next year.

"Today's decision is reflective of the important role all jurisdictions play in ensuring Australian children receive quality education.

I am pleased that the Australian Government has agreed to work with School Education Ministers, through SCSEEC, to explore its proposals regarding a national school improvement agenda and funding reform," Minister Collier said.

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