

COMMUNIQUÉ

The Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood met today in Sydney. The Council discussed a number of matters in relation to national education reforms.

Review of Funding for Schooling

Mr David Gonski AC attended the Standing Council meeting to discuss the Review of Funding for Schooling. Ministers welcomed the opportunity to engage with Mr Gonski to explore and better understand the rationale behind the report's recommendations.

Ministers agreed the value of this work and the importance of attaining equitable and positive educational outcomes for all school children in Australia.

Standing Council noted that the Gonski Review has the potential to inform valuable reforms of education funding. It also agreed that effective school funding mechanisms are essential to ensuring equity and excellence in Australia's schools, which underpin Australia's economic future.

Standing Council also recognised that States, Territories and the Commonwealth are equal partners in any negotiations of school funding issues and that funding decisions are jointly made through the Council.

Standing Council agreed that Senior Education Officials would develop a high-level policy roadmap for Ministers by June 2012 to provide clarity about the key decision points for the Standing Council and COAG in the development of any new funding arrangements and that the work plan of the Strategic Policy Working Group commence on a no prejudice basis and will be over-sighted by Australian Education and Early Childhood Systems Officials Committee and the Standing Council.

The Standing Council also recognised a number of important considerations, and State and Territory concerns, including the timetable and governance arrangements for progressing any future funding arrangements.