



BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS

Smarter Schools National Partnerships

Quality education helps create more jobs and higher wages, providing better opportunities for all Australians.

We need a world-class education system to build a stronger future and fairer Australia. In November 2008, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed on some key ways to lift the quality of education for all students.

National Partnership on low socio-economic status school communities

This partnership will address educational disadvantage resulting from low socio-economic status (SES). The Australian Government will spend \$1.1 billion on a range of initiatives to assist students most in need and to provide additional support to improve educational outcomes.

The funding received by individual schools will depend on their size, the extent of reforms undertaken, the degree of reform ambition and the level of state/territory co-contribution. Initiatives could include:

- incentives to attract high performing principals and teachers
- tailored learning opportunities
- greater accountability of schools
- partnerships with parents, other schools, business and communities.

The Australian Government's funding will be matched by state and territory investment.

The Low SES School Communities National Partnership will support reforms that lift the quality of education for students from disadvantaged backgrounds by:

- improving student learning outcomes and wellbeing
- giving students a better start for future employment
- reducing disadvantage and improving school participation within Indigenous communities.

The non-government school sector will be invited to participate in the National Partnership.

National Partnership on literacy and numeracy

Through the Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership, COAG has committed to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes for all students, especially those who are falling behind.

Putting these core skills in place is fundamental to helping all Australian students to reach their full potential.

The Australian Government will provide \$540 million to support the National Partnership, which will focus on:

- effective and evidence-based teaching of literacy and numeracy
- strong school leadership and whole-of-school engagement with literacy and numeracy
- monitoring student and school literacy and numeracy performance to identify where support is needed.

The Australian Government wants to make sure that all children are getting the basics right in reading, writing and maths. Early intervention strategies will be shared across Australia.



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National Partnership on quality teaching

The Smarter Schools—Quality Teaching National Partnership will help attract and retain quality teachers and leaders in schools. The Australian Government will commit \$550 million to this partnership.

The broad areas for reform include:

- attracting the best graduates to teaching through additional pathways
- improving the quality of teacher training in partnership with universities
- developing national standards and teacher registration to aid teacher mobility and retention
- developing and enhancing the skills and knowledge of teachers and school leaders through their careers
- improving retention by rewarding quality teachers and school leaders
- improving the quality and availability of teacher workforce data.

Teacher quality is the single greatest influence on student engagement and achievement.

This National Partnership recognises the importance of teachers in making a difference to individual students and ultimately to the long-term productivity of Australia.

From the overall funding allocation for this partnership, \$50 million will go to professional development and support to empower principals to be able to better manage their schools and achieve improved student results.