



Australian Government

# NATIONAL CONVER SATION with principals

## Smarter Schools National Partnerships

### Background

The Australian Government is working with state and territory education authorities to improve educational outcomes for all children, particularly those at risk of falling behind. The Government is providing significant additional funding through collaborative new National Partnerships with states and territories to improve **teacher quality**, boost **literacy and numeracy** and raise achievement in **disadvantaged school communities**.

The National Partnerships are a new way of funding education reform and provide initial payments to states and territories to introduce reforms in these three key areas that we know make a difference to students.

The results of these reforms will then be evaluated and if they have led to improved outcomes, states and territories will receive additional 'reward' funding that will allow them to expand the reforms across their school systems.

### National Partnership for Literacy and Numeracy

The \$540 million Smarter Schools **National Partnership for Literacy and Numeracy** will ensure an increased focus and commitment to improving the literacy and numeracy outcomes of all students. Education authorities will identify schools that will participate in the reforms under this National Partnership.

This National Partnership recognises that a focus on high quality literacy and numeracy teaching, together with strong school leadership and whole school approaches are needed to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes. The National Partnership will also progress the national target to halve the gap in literacy and numeracy outcomes for Indigenous students.

### National Partnership – Low Socio-economic Status (SES) School communities

The \$1.5 billion **National Partnership – Low Socio-economic Status (SES) School Communities** will address educational disadvantage associated with low socio-economic status.

This National Partnership aims to improve student engagement, educational attainment and well being in participating schools and make inroads into entrenched disadvantage.

Education authorities will identify schools who will participate in the reforms under this National Partnership. Schools will work with their local communities and education authorities to get the best educational outcomes for students who may be disadvantaged, including Indigenous students, students from a non-English speaking background and students with disabilities.

## National Partnership – Improving teacher quality

The \$550 million **National Partnership – Improving Teacher Quality** recognises teacher quality as the single greatest influence on student engagement and achievement.

This National Partnership will create opportunities for people to enter teaching, in addition to sustaining and improving teacher quality as a platform for improving student outcomes.

The Partnership aims to deliver system-wide reforms targeting critical points in the teacher 'lifecycle' to attract, train, place, develop and retain quality teachers and leaders in our schools and classrooms. As part of this Partnership, \$50 million will go to world-class professional development for school leaders.

### Recent progress

Work has been progressing on the Smarter Schools National Partnerships throughout the year with states and territories developing implementation plans outlining the reforms that will be introduced.

Governments are focussing on those students that are most disadvantaged including Indigenous students and are putting in place concrete reforms to support these students.

Schools identified to participate in the National Partnerships will be required to develop school level plans to demonstrate how schools are implementing reform activities within their school community to improve educational outcomes for their students. These plans will showcase to parents, families and the wider community what is happening at the school level to deliver on innovative and sustainable activities that will be embedded in practice.

School plans will be available on school websites as activities under the National Partnerships commence.

### Further information

Further details on the Smarter Schools National Partnerships can be found on the Department website at:  
[www.deewr.gov.au/smarterschools](http://www.deewr.gov.au/smarterschools).