Dear Parents and Community members

Re: 2014 National Gonski Week of Action – 28 July to 3 August

The recent federal government budget brought some very bad news for Australian schools: the Abbott government will not deliver promised additional school funding after 2017.

The Queensland Teachers’ Union (QTU) is the representative of 43,000 teachers and principals in state schools across Queensland. We write to you to urge your support for this next phase of the national campaign to stop the federal government from dumping Gonski.

The “Great Results Guarantee” money currently in your school is Gonski money. It would not have been delivered without our campaign. Queensland has benefited from the decision of the state government to distribute the money directly to schools, although the needs identified by the Gonski model have been largely ignored.

This link (http://youtu.be/nWeHEKQOAAc) will take you to a specially produced Gonski video for parents. Please take the time to watch it.

We have also prepared an update in the form of a fact sheet (attached) that we would encourage you to share with other parents and community members at your school.

QTU members from your school may have already spoken to your P&C Association about this issue or they will soon do so. Others of you will have actively engaged in the Gonski campaign conducted by students, parents, community members, teachers and principals over the past several years and we thank you for that support.

It is important to remember what is at stake now: only one third of the additional funding for schools promised in the Gonski model is delivered up to 2017. This sudden stop to schools funding will see billions of dollars less in Queensland schools.

The Queensland Treasurer, Tim Nicholls, said: “It was deeply disappointing to see that the Commonwealth has revised the funding methods for health and education. The revisions are nothing more than an unjustified attack on the State’s delivery of health and education services. We will use the time between now and the implementation of these measures to take the fight to Canberra.” (Media statement, 13 May 2014)

Teachers and parents are working hard to try to get the Prime Minister to change his mind on this critical investment in your children’s future. You can learn more at www.igiveagonski.com.au.

Yours sincerely

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