

Media Release
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Stop the politicisation of public schools now

The recent Federal Budget has shown that politicians at both state and Federal levels are treating education as a political football and refusing to commit to the future of our children.

The slashing of \$20 billion in education and health cuts to Victoria over the next decade appears to have been done purely to force the states to lobby to raise the GST rate.

Our Children Our Schools (OCOS) spokesman Clarke Martin says "Parents are sick and tired of their children's future being used to further politician's games. They need certainty in terms of school provision, planning and ongoing funding.

We have seen pork barrelling from state politicians and now the Federal politicians are playing games with funding.

The current funding regime is unfair on families, students and the schools affected. We say it must end now".

Our Children Our Schools (OCOS) group has urged political parties in Victoria to stop using school funding to buy crucial votes in the upcoming state election.

Funding promises by both sides of politics have resulted in schools in marginal seats receiving more funding than they asked for or indeed funding when none was asked for and schools in safe seats in desperate need of funding, receiving none.

OCOS wants to see funding announcements throughout a four-year term of office, and not just in seats that the incumbent Government or current Opposition want to win at the next election.

For more information please visit www.ourchildrenourschools.com.au.

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About Our Children, Our Schools

Our Children, Our Schools believes every Victorian child should have access to high-quality Foundation-to-Year 12 public education in their local community.

This means that these schools must be proactively planned for and built, well-maintained, staffed and funded appropriately.

OCOS members are community groups campaigning for the same outcomes as OCOS:

- Beaumaris School Community Group (BSCG)
- A new school for Bannockburn District
- High School for Coburg (HSC)

- Doreen and Mernda Secondary School Alliance
- Friends of Kyneton Education (FoKE)
- Oakleigh Ward Local Secondary School (OWLSS)
- Richmond High School Choices
- Secondary Education for Seddon, Kingsville and Yarraville (SKY High)
- TwoSchoolsNow (Port Phillip and Southbank)
- High School for Preston
- Restore Strathmore Heights' School Zones
- Reopen Our Schools

For interviews with Our Children, Our Schools spokesperson and Beaumaris School Community Group member Clarke Martin, please contact:

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