MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

In July 2013 the Tasmanian and Australian Governments signed Better Schools Tasmania which will improve the quality and equity of our education system.

Better Schools Tasmania pursues the agenda that all young people have the best possible start in life and that this is vital to the well-being of families, communities and the nation.

Better Schools Tasmania aspires to reach the level of public funding for schools that will minimise educational disadvantage and facilitate a high quality education for every student in every school in Tasmania.

These reforms are driving a strong school improvement agenda within our state to ensure that Tasmanian schools deliver a high quality education to all students.

By 2019, funding for the Tasmanian education system will increase by $382 million under the Better Schools Tasmania reform.

While the funding will facilitate change in our schools it is how we use the money that will make the most difference. Our focus on school improvement will be what creates long and lasting change in our schools, for our students and for our community.

I am pleased to announce the introduction of Fairer Funding which will be used by the Tasmanian Government to allocate the funding from Better Schools Tasmania.

The model will distribute funding to school communities based on factors such as the number of students enrolled, the geographic location of the school and the infrastructure needs of the school. It will also consider unique circumstances of each school such as the level of disadvantage and provision of services for students with higher-level needs.

This model guarantees an improvement in funding over time.

Fairer Funding will provide schools with resources based on their school’s specific circumstances and will enable principals to adjust expenditure to better meet the needs of their students. The model empowers principals to make decisions that are best for their school communities and their students.

In 2009, the Department of Education commissioned Professor Stephen Lamb from the Centre for Post-Compulsory Education and Lifelong Learning at the University of Melbourne to conduct a review of Tasmania’s school resourcing model.

The purpose of the review was to provide advice to the Tasmanian Government on preferred school resourcing mechanisms to support schools to deliver success for students from all backgrounds.

Fairer Funding is the result of the review and is a truly collaborative project, involving numerous stakeholders, but I am particularly grateful to the Australian Education Union and the Tasmanian Principals Association for their on-going support and endorsement of this model.

Fairer Funding as part of Better Schools Tasmania, will ensure that young Tasmanians from all backgrounds receive an education that is equitable, of high quality and maximises their potential in life.

Nick McKim MP
Minister for Education and Skills

Better Schools Tasmania – with Fairer Funding for all students

Better Schools Tasmania – Fairer Funding for all students. will see funding to our schools change from January 2014.

A partnership between the Tasmanian and Australian Government, Better Schools Tasmania will improve education outcomes for young Tasmanians, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Better Schools Tasmania will assist in improving the quality and equity of education in our schools for all Tasmanian students.

Funding alone is not enough to address Tasmania’s schooling challenges and that’s why Better Schools Tasmania includes a National Plan for School Improvement addressing teacher quality, quality learning, empowered school leadership, meeting student need and transparency and accountability.

The strong school improvement focus of Better Schools Tasmania means there will be benchmarks that schools will be required to meet.

Since 2009, in consultation with the education community, Tasmania has been working on its own funding reform. Fairer Funding is a result of this reform, and aims to ensure that young Tasmanians from all backgrounds receive an education that is equitable, of high quality and maximises their potential in life. It features a core allocation to all schools that will be supplemented where there is disadvantage or need.

This model guarantees an improvement in funding over time.

Fairer Funding is strongly aligned with the principles of Better Schools Tasmania and we will use the Fairer Funding in Tasmanian Government schools to distribute the funding from the national reform.