

CREATE CONNECT CONVINCE

media RELEASE

Australia's schools system is deteriorating in the absence of Gonski implementation: new CPD report

Australia's school system is deteriorating in terms of equity and excellence and these trends will worsen without a revitalised commitment to implementing the Gonski recommendations in full, according to a new Centre for Policy Development report.

Uneven Playing Field: The State of Australian Schools analyses the data available for 2010 to 2015 from the My School website. CPD Fellow and co-author Chris Bonnor said:

"The data shows Australia's schools are more inequitable than they were only five years ago. A child's background is having a greater impact on their ability to succeed at school."

"Implementing all the Gonski recommendations would have helped to offset the impact of privilege and social status. Yet a social hierarchy of advantaged and disadvantaged schools continues to emerge. Students often move to preferred public and private schools which have barriers such as entrance exams or commercial fees. A concentration of disadvantage is occurring in many of our remaining schools, whose students do not have a choice to move to other schools because of their background."

"If we truly believe an accessible, quality public education matters, we must put the Gonski recommendations at the centre of federal and state education policy. The alternative is a continuing deterioration of our public system, in which case we all lose."

Co-author and retired principal Bernie Shepherd said:

"We are drifting further from the goals of equity and excellence. Policymakers aren't addressing major deficiencies, like the fact that non-government schools receive more total funding than public schools. On current trends most Catholic school students will receive more *public* funding than government school students by 2020. Government schools funding is often imbalanced and misdirected, making the trends worse."

The report recommends the Gonski recommendations be implemented in full, with a permanent shift to targeted investment in schools based on need, which is currently due to be scrapped in 2017. It also recommends restoring balance to the funding mix between government and non-government schools, and introducing public-interest obligations on all schools receiving specified levels of public funding.

Authors Chris Bonnor and Bernie Shepherd are available for interview.

Full report available here: www.cpd.org.au Media contact: Shivani Nadan 0409 010 818

MELBOURNE 15-31 PELHAM STREET CARLTON VIC 3000 03 9929 9915

SYDNEY
PO BOX K3
HAYMARKET
NSW 1240
02 9043 6815

www.cpd.org.au

ACN: 124 425 896 ABN: 82124 425 896