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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

This APFACTS new sletter comes at the end of a school term w hich has seen substantial school education developments both nationally and in the ACT.

At the national level w e saw alarming data emerge a month ago, about a potential reduction in recurrent funding for the majority of non-government schools in the ACT.

Very soon after, the Federal Government led by the Prime Minister assured that the Government's plans for implementing (most of) the recommendations of the Gonski Review w ould see no school lose funding rather gain funding through a plan for school improvement.

This w as a substantial and positive development. The implementation timetable announced by the Prime Minister is to commence in 2014 and w ill take a further 13 years to fully implement. We continue to w ork w iththe ACT Government and stakeholders in advocating for transparency as to the funding model and implementation timetable that w ill be used in the ACT.

Recent developments in NSW has seen a 3% reduction in school funding for non-government schools in NSW as w ell as an indexation freeze for 4 years. This move w ill also see new students entering non-government schools receive no funding for the four year period.

It is hard to believe in a time w here w e are talking about the investment needed to implement Gonski and school improvement that the NSW government has taken this approach. Despite these alarming funding cuts in NSW, the ACT still remains the low est funded non-government schools nationally at 17.5% compared w ith 22% in NSW and 27% in WA.

As our local election approaches here in the ACT, education is emerging as a major election issue w ith political parties developing and announcing a range of initiatives, a number of w hich specifically recognising the importance of non- government schools in the ACT. I urge you to consider the initiatives and pledges made so far as w ell as possible additional initiatives w hich may be announced closer to the ACT Election on October 20, 2012.

I encourage you to visit our w ebsite w w w .apfacts.org.au w hich has a dedicated and regularly updated ACT election page w here you can access and consider key pledges as they emerge.

APFACTS has been active in representing non-government school parent perspectives through the new s media and advocating our position directly to ACT political leaders, through an election forum for parents to hear and consider each parties election policies and pledges, and through e-bulletins to affiliates and schools.

As alw ays w e w elcome your feedback and comments.
George Gamkrelidze

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President's Message

Visit our w ebsite w w w .apfacts.org.au to stay in touch w ith issues relating to education and the upcoming ACT election.

[More](#)

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Do you know of an event or resource that you w ould like non-government schools to know about?

Email us at:

admin@apfacts.org.au

- [Inclusive Governance of ACT Education](#)
- [Position on funding](#)
- [Position on students with a disability](#)

APFACTS is the voice of non-government school parents in the ACT. The upcoming election is an opportunity to voice concerns and issues to all the political parties.

Our aim in this election edition new sletter is to highlight promises and platforms of interest to non-government parents in the ACT.

APFACTS is interested in your views and concerns, please email ExecutiveOfficer@apfacts.org.au with any comments on policies, platforms or views you would like us to raise with candidates.

Make your vote count on October 20, 2012 !

ACT ELECTION PLEDGES

Australian Labor Party (ACT Branch)

Policy Platform 2011-2012

- Pledge on September 17, 2012: **Student focussed centre and increased Secondary Bursary Scheme**. \$1.7 million for a student-focused Mt Stromlo Science Centre and Planetarium, to provide opportunities for students to connect to maths and science. The existing Secondary Bursary Scheme will be increased from \$500 to \$750 per student, per year to assist with the purchase of hand held or tablet devices. [More](#)
- Pledge on September 9, 2012: **Recurrent funding for students most in need in the non government sector**. \$11 million dollars to support non-government students with a disability, Indigenous students, low SES background and low level English proficiency. \$5 million to support non-government preschool students, based on need. [More](#)
- Pledge on September 5, 2012: **Preschool Matters program**. \$400,000 for a Preschool Matters program to provide support and further engage parents in their kids' education and their school community. [More](#)
- Pledge on August 27, 2012: ACT Healthy Kids. \$500,000 available in grants over four years to establish a fund for all schools who agree to phase out the sale of sugary drinks. [More](#)
- Pledge on July 28, 2012 : **Smart School, Smart Students grant program for non-government schools**. \$2.5 million in grants to non-government schools introduced over the next four years at \$625,000 p/annum to help fund or subsidise the installation of fast broadband infrastructure in the ACT. [More](#)

Australian Motorist Party (A.M.P.)

Policy Platform and Education Platform

- Pledge on September 14, 2012: **Increase to non government school funding to 25%**. Also student wellbeing, addressing bullying in schools and increasing numeracy and literacy. [More](#)

Liberal Party of Australia (A.C.T. Division - Canberra Liberals)

Policy Platform

- Pledge on September 22: \$1.5 million dollars to build a school

dedicated to young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The school will cater for 40 students aged between two and six years old. A further \$1 million dollars plan to operate the school. [More](#)

- Pledge on August 31, 2012: **Increase to non-government school funding to 25%**. \$31.4 million over the forward estimates to increase non-government school funding to bring the ACT on par with other State funding levels. [More](#)
- Pledge in July, 2012: **Safer School Zones for all Canberra Schools**. \$6.8 million to provide every school in the ACT with flashing school zone signs over next four years with priority of rollout to schools with significant crash and speeding history, busy traffic flows and higher speed limits. [More](#)

[The ACT Greens \(The Greens\)](#)

[Policy Platform](#)

- Pledge on September 12, 2012: **Grants to establish school gardens and improve canteens + legislation to protect children from junk food advertising**. Grants for school gardens and improvements to school canteens. Legislation to protect children from junk food advertising in prime time TV, Cinema and bus shelter advertising and recruitment of staff to implement legislative change. [More](#)
- Pledge on September 4, 2012: **Care and Protection for young people**. \$2.7 million plan to boost training and support for people who are directly involved in the lives of young people in the care system. [More](#)
- Pledge on August 9, 2012: **Re-current funding of \$2million to non-government students with a disability until Gonski funding model is implemented**. [More](#) **Increased funding for human rights commissioner**. [More](#)

APFACTS is interested in your views and concerns, please email ExecutiveOfficer@apfacts.org.au with any comments on policies, platforms or views you would like us to raise with candidates.

For more information on election pledges for non government parents visit : www.apfacts.org.au

VOTING INFORMATION FOR ACT RESIDENTS

- [Pre-polling details](#)
- [Postal voting locations](#) and [applying for a postal vote](#)
- [Polling locations](#) on October 20, 2012 are open from 8am to 6pm.
- What [electorate](#) am I in ?

STUDENT AND TEACHER RESOURCES - ELECTIONS

- [Brainstorm for primary students](#)
- [Brainstorm for Secondary students](#)
- [Find-a-word](#)
- [Quick Quiz](#)
- [Crossword](#) and [Solution](#)

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