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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Why should parents bear the financial brunt of a political mess?**

The Association of Parents & Friends of ACT Schools (APFACTS) encourages the ACT Education Minister to bring greater clarity to what this new funding review will do for schooling outcomes in the Territory after attending the COAG meeting today.

#### **APFACTS calls for:**

- The quantum of funding promised at the election to be guaranteed and delivered
- The review to be conducted quickly and with consultation
- A funding model that is needs based, coherent, transparent and equitable across the country to be known by mid-2014 and ready to be implemented by 2015.
- A definition of disability to be a priority, so funding can properly serve students with disability regardless of sector which has remained unsolved 30 years!

*"We are bitterly disappointed that these new political developments cast further ambiguity for schools and parents of over 43% of the schooling population in the ACT. We fear that this uncertainty will drive up school fees as they have done for 2014. "* **said Charuni Weerasooriya**

*"Next year's school fees range from 5-15% in the ACT. Parents in the non-government sector shouldn't have to bear the financial brunt of this political mess on top of forecasted job cuts and rising rates.*

*Schools need certainty - funding for schools needs to be transparent, known and stable, unnecessary red tape needs to be removed so schools can get on with what they do best and that is educating children in partnership with parents.*

*Parents need certainty to forward plan their own budgets and commitments and feel secure that they have found the right schooling fit for their children so they can do the important job of engaging in the schooling journey with their child.*

*The evidence is now overwhelming that parent engagement in schooling is one of the biggest contributing factors in student attainment. We need the right stable funding and school climate for parents and schools in partnership to bring out the best in our young people."* **said Charuni Weerasooriya**

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