

Email: 29 April 2013

Dear Mr Napthine,

**Re: the need to participate in the Gonski education reforms**

As President of Graduate Women Victoria, I have already written to you about how important it is for Victoria's children and their parents that Victoria participate in the Gonski education reforms. I feel compelled, however, to write again by the report in yesterday's *Sunday Age* -- a report based on figures from the eminently reliable Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority. This shows that the gap between the average net recurrent income per student received by independent schools and that received by public school has widened by more than a thousand dollars between 2008 and 2011 and is set to become even more inequitable now that the Catholic and Independent schools have reached an agreement with the Federal Government.

In refusing to sign up to the reforms, how can you possibly justify a course of action that will ensure that the most needy students and schools are exactly the ones to receive the least adequate per capita funding?

The fact that you are still in negotiation with the Minister, Mr Shorten, is some cause for hope. We do urge you most strongly to accept an agreement that will create a better education environment and outcomes for every Victorian child,

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Jennifer Strauss AM  
President, Graduate Women Victoria

GRADUATE WOMEN VICTORIA