

Email: April 14, 2013

Re Gonski Report and Recommendations

Dear Mr Napthine: I write on behalf of Graduate Women Victoria, an independent NGO committed to advocating for the right for affordable, accessible quality education for all. We urge you to ensure that Victoria commits itself to fulfilling the recommendations in the Gonski report and co-operating with the Federal Government in realising the aims of this comprehensive analysis of how to provide the best possible public education for all Australian children.

We are encouraged by signs that you have a better understanding of the importance of education than your predecessor in that you have resiled from some of his decisions, restoring some of TAFEs lost funding and abandoning the contentious proposals for performance pay for teachers. Why not make that a trifecta by committing to the Gonski proposals.

I would like to add a personal note. As one of three children of a struggling Western District (Heywood) dairy farmer many years ago, I would have had no chance at all of attending university if the then Prime Minister Menzies had not had the vision to introduce the Commonwealth Scholarships scheme, in the awareness that maximising educational opportunities for all was the most progressive step he could take to advance the wellbeing of all Australians. That was a great leap forward in Australian education: Gonski offers you the chance to emulate his achievement. Please seize that opportunity,

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Jennifer Strauss AM ,
President, Graduate Women Victoria

GRADUATE WOMEN VICTORIA