

EDUCATION POLICY – OUR KEY TO PROSPERITY

'Education is the most powerful weapon which we can use to change the World'

Nelson Mandela

*We want quality, affordable and lifelong learning opportunities for all Australians. Education improves us as individuals, and in turn strengthens us as a people. It is the ultimate WIN-WIN. Yet there are regular reports about how Australian students are falling behind other first world nations in academic achievement. **There can be no better investment in our future as a nation that in education.***

We believe that every high school student in Australia should, at a minimum, be able to attend dance, drama, media arts, music or visual arts classes taught at least weekly by a trained teacher as part of their curriculum. **We endorse the Australian Arts Curriculum** and call for it to be implemented immediately. The curriculum outline can be accessed [here](#).

We endorse all the findings of the Gonski report into primary schools and fully supports its complete implementation. The Commonwealth government should provide increased capital funding to all schools, government and non-government, and there should be a greater monitoring and reporting on school infrastructure in all sectors and states. http://www.igiveagonski.com.au/whats_gonski

We call for for **music, visual and media art to become mandatory in all primary schools**. We also want Australian secondary schools to also offer access to all three, as well as drama and dance, taught at least once a week by a trained teacher. This would be covered by **an additional \$6bn injection into out public school system**.

The placement of **artists-in-residence in primary and secondary schools** across the country, through expanding the existing chaplains program, to integrate creative practice in our communities and offer educational value.

In order to encourage more individuals to partake in higher education, and lifelong learning in order to gain qualifications, we propose that **HECS payment rates should be halved and not linked to inflation**.

A 75% subsidy on enrolment fees for retirees wishing to undertake additional higher education study in Australia.

The pursuit of knowledge alone should not incur a cost and must be made possible by **continued development of MOOCS (Massive Open Online Courses) by universities and learning facilities across Australia**. We would want an additional fund created and funded with \$50m pa to encourage the creation and promotion of these course to all Australians.

Parity of pay across the country for all teachers in Australian public primary and high schools, based on the current best rates, which are in Western Australia.

We want funding for a 10 year research plan to completely restructure the National Curriculum. Ultimately the entire way we are taught needs to be addressed. Creative thinking, lateral skills and teamworking should be integrated throughout the curriculum as well as real world skills around money, relationships and negotiation. We need to better prepare the next generation for the evolving worklife challenges ahead.

[Further policy ideas and positions can be found by visiting our website.](#)