



MEDIA RELEASE

RECOMMENDATIONS TO REFORM NSW SCHOOLS SYSTEM AND LIFT STUDENTS' RESULTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

18 February 2020

The Upper House committee inquiring into measurement and outcome based funding in New South Wales schools has today tabled its report, urging the NSW Government to implement a suite of recommendations to assist with the introduction of outcome-based budgeting and halt the decline in the NSW schooling system and student results.

The Chair of the committee, the Hon Mark Latham MLC, said: "The NSW Government's new policy of outcome-based budgeting for the NSW Department of Education was the initial focus of the inquiry, but the inquiry extended to look at ways our schools can improve and factors that are dragging down measured outcomes".

During the inquiry, the committee became aware of many schools, particularly in disadvantaged areas, where evidence-based teaching practices such as explicit instruction are being used successfully to improve learning outcomes of students. However, this success is not being shared or scaled up across the system. The Chair added "The great paradox in schools policy is we know what works. Yet the things that work are not automatically built in school curricula, teaching programs and practices."

In addition, the committee found there is a lack of accountability and transparency in the education system as demonstrated by departmental defensiveness, and a lack of rigorous, reliable systems of performance measurement and reporting. In order to lift NSW school outcomes, the committee called on the NSW Government to establish an independent authority for the measurement and public reporting of school outcomes.

The report also discusses the Local Schools Local Decisions policy and its effectiveness, the current state of university teaching degrees and teacher accreditation, the 12 key characteristics of the Best Practice School Model, and the need for data sharing and greater cooperation between the government and non-government education sectors.

Mr Latham said, "We recognise that there a number of ways that the NSW education system can be improved for the benefit of students and teachers alike. We call on the government to carefully consider our 66 recommendations and implement them as a matter of priority."

The Chair of the committee will hold a press conference at Parliament House on Wednesday 19 February at 11.00 am in the Press Conference room.



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO.3 - EDUCATION

For a full copy of the committee's report and other inquiry documents please visit the committee's webpage: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/portfoliocommittee3

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For further information please contact Committee Chairman, the Hon Mark Latham MLC, on 9230 3682