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### **New FOI data reveals PM's school funding hypocrisy**

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New school funding data has revealed that Australia's most disadvantaged government schools receive at least \$10,000 less per student in government funding than equivalent Catholic schools.

The 2016 funding figures, released by ACARA after a Freedom of Information (FOI) request by the Australian Education Union (AEU), categorise the funding data by school sector and by the Index of Community and Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA) score. ICSEA is a measure of student need.

The FOI request showed that on average, Catholic schools in disadvantaged areas received more total government funding than nearby government public schools.

AEU Federal President Correna Haythorpe said this data was more proof that Prime Minister Scott Morrison has abandoned Australia's 2.5 million public school students.

"The evidence shows that Australia's most disadvantaged government schools receive less government funding than Catholic and Independent schools in the same area," Ms Haythorpe said. "This is astonishing. Prime Minister Scott Morrison said his plan is needs-based, but clearly he hasn't looked at the national data which tells a very different story."

ICSEA is a scale that measures education advantage. On this scale, a figure of 1000 represents an 'average' school score. The lower the score, the more disadvantage a school experiences. According to the ACARA data, all public schools in disadvantaged areas receive less government funding than Catholic schools.

"National data shows that the most disadvantaged government schools are receiving the least help from the government, compared to the private sector," Ms Haythorpe said. "The gap can be up to \$10,000 per student, which for a school of 250 students would equate to \$2.5 million per year. This is absolutely astounding."

"This is just more proof that Prime Minister Morrison has abandoned Australia's 2.5 million public school students," Ms Haythorpe said.

"While Mr Morrison's attention has been on finding a political solution to his problems with the Catholic education sector, what the ACARA data clearly shows us is that the federal government is providing more funding to disadvantaged non-government schools than to equivalent public schools."

"This makes a mockery of PM Morrison's sector-blind, needs-based rhetoric," Ms Haythorpe said. "This data actually demonstrates the opposite of what the Prime Minister

claims to support, and once again exposes his hypocrisy when it comes to public school funding.”

“Many of the most disadvantaged public schools in Australia are in regional and remote areas,” Ms Haythorpe said. “Why do the most disadvantaged private schools receive on average \$10,000 per student more in government funding than the most disadvantaged public schools?”

“Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that public schools teach 74% of children in outer regional areas, 77.5% of children in remote areas and 88% in very remote areas. It is the children in public schools in these regions which are missing out on vital resources”

Ms Haythorpe said that fair funding for public schools will be a crucial issue in the upcoming federal election.

“Public schools need a fair go for funding, not a Prime Minister who clearly prioritises private schools and denies every child the opportunity to make their dreams come true,” Ms Haythorpe said.

“There are state elections looming in Victoria and New South Wales, as well as a federal election. Public school funding is going to be a critical issue in all of these. Parents in public school communities understand the importance of fully funding public schools, and they vote.”

“Current federal funding arrangements will leave nearly nine in ten public schools in Australia without enough funding to meet the needs of each student by 2023,” Ms Haythorpe said. “It’s clear what needs to happen. The Morrison government must lift its contribution to public school funding.”

“The Morrison government must reverse its \$1.9 billion cut from public schools for the 2018 and 2019 years, remove the 20% cap for public schools on its share of the SRS, and reverse cuts to disability funding in five states and territories.”

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2016 - funding figures by sector and ICSEA band (\$AUD per student)

Sector	ICSEA Band	Average Australian Government recurrent funding per student	Average state/territory government recurrent funding per student	Average income from fees, charges and parent contributions per student	Average income from other private sources per student	Average total gross income per student	Average total net recurrent income per student
Government	Under 800	4,977	18,743	151	499	24,370	24,350
Government	800-849	3,585	15,204	210	178	19,177	19,143
Government	850-899	3,167	13,316	259	274	17,016	16,967
Government	900-949	2,752	11,710	260	241	14,962	14,910
Government	950-999	2,403	10,400	349	262	13,413	13,394
Government	1000-1049	2,176	9,328	426	283	12,213	12,199
Government	1050-1099	1,987	8,762	553	361	11,663	11,640
Government	1100-1149	1,858	8,247	596	408	11,108	11,083
Government	1150-1199	1,794	7,880	654	424	10,752	10,715
Government	1200+	2,125	9,790	1,724	574	14,213	14,020
Catholic	Under 800	28,661	4,450	1,715	1,187	36,014	35,535
Catholic	800-849	17,509	6,913	1,839	4,027	30,287	27,509
Catholic	850-899	13,837	3,534	1,098	335	18,804	18,140
Catholic	900-949	12,356	3,188	2,065	545	18,153	17,567
Catholic	950-999	9,924	2,953	2,310	440	15,627	14,924
Catholic	1000-1049	8,817	2,630	2,962	459	14,868	14,060
Catholic	1050-1099	7,706	2,296	3,670	512	14,184	13,215
Catholic	1100-1149	6,980	2,207	4,672	632	14,491	13,258
Catholic	1150-1199	6,098	1,879	9,572	1,041	18,589	16,244
Catholic	1200+	6,206	1,954	3,236	1,288	12,683	12,012
Independent	Under 800	22,639	4,424	1,339	1,130	29,532	29,287
Independent	800-849	17,195	3,773	936	1,028	22,931	22,375
Independent	850-899	17,873	4,464	1,252	1,524	25,113	24,931
Independent	900-949	10,524	3,268	2,211	813	16,815	16,489
Independent	950-999	9,218	2,983	3,360	558	16,119	15,308
Independent	1000-1049	8,440	2,801	3,655	790	15,685	14,772
Independent	1050-1099	7,534	2,359	6,372	626	16,891	15,376
Independent	1100-1149	6,300	1,976	12,446	993	21,716	19,320
Independent	1150-1199	3,959	1,409	21,849	1,740	28,957	25,630
Independent	1200+	3,270	1,499	24,198	3,210	32,176	27,672