



Ministerial Media Statements

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**Hon Peter Collier BA DipEd
MLC**

Media Statement Attachments

- [WApublicschoolfundsreviewsummary.pdf](#)

Release of major review into how WA public school funds are distributed

Saturday, 3 August 2013

- **First review in more than 20 years into distribution of WA public school funds**
- **Review finds funding should be more flexible and better linked to student needs**

The first review in more than 20 years into how Western Australian public school funds are distributed has found the current method is outdated, inflexible and does not best meet the needs of today's students.

Releasing the University of Melbourne review today, Education Minister Peter Collier said the State Government took the findings seriously and work was being done to develop a fairer, more equitable model.

"It is clear from this comprehensive review that the current funding mechanism has passed its use-by-date. According to the report, the methods have become complicated due to years of adding layers and layers of funding lines, implementing complicated multiplier effects and creating numerous bolt-ons," Mr Collier said.

"Led by Professor Richard Teese, the report says the current way of distributing funds to schools is 'haunted' with the history of the past and can no longer be adapted or changed."

The Minister said a wide range of schools took part and the review also sought input from all principals, with a key finding that principals needed more flexibility in using their funds.

"The report clearly articulates the views of principals who indicate they want more flexibility in resourcing so they can better target student needs and plan for the future," he said.

"The review found the Liberal National Government's Independent Public Schools initiative is equipping schools with the autonomy they need to respond to students' needs, but that the current funding method does not support this.

"According to Professor Teese, this is because funding is distributed through numerous strands tied to specific programs and principals have limited discretion when allocating their resources."

Funds could also be used more effectively to improve student outcomes, according to the review.

The report points towards a new funding model that considers each student according to their educational needs, rather than just where they live or what school they attend. It should also provide schools with flexibility in planning and using resources.

"The current mechanism funds schools, school types and school programs, rather than students and their outcomes as proposed by Professor Teese," Mr Collier said.

The Minister said a new model would take the findings of the review into account, along with reforms such as the Independent Public Schools initiative.

"It is vital Western Australia has an effective funding model to serve not only the students of today but generations to come," he said.

"Our schools are filled with committed and talented educators and staff who give our children a high standard of education. To support them in doing this, we need to ensure resources are used to best effect."

Fact File

- **Review based on analysis of how resources are used in a wide range of schools across WA**
- **Review available at <http://www.det.wa.edu.au>**
- **Summary attached of findings and funding model proposed in the review**

Minister's office - 6552 6300