

# MEDIA RELEASE



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30 April 2018

## **Catholic School Parents Australia welcomes the Gonski II Report which recognizes the important role of Parent Engagement in student learning**

Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA) is very pleased at the recognition in the report of the importance of engaging parents in their children's learning, from the early years and right through young people's learning at school.

CSPA Chair Karl Rodrigues stated that, 'the recommendation for strong and developing evidence of the benefits of parent engagement on children's learning will support the development of an evidence-informed definition of parent engagement and will assist in driving improvement in policies and practices around parent engagement'.

Catholic School Parents Australia also acknowledges the need for a more standardised framework to help guide education providers in their efforts to better engage parents whilst recognising that there is no 'one-size-fits-all' approach, parent engagement needs to be contextualised to the local school.

'A national framework and a bank of resources for schools and parents to use to enhance their engagement with their young people's learning would be welcome', Mr Rodrigues said, 'so that the partnership of home, school and student might be enhanced and learning improved for all students'.

CSPA supports the report's acknowledgment of the achievements of schools and school systems to date, and *their ongoing commitment to continuous improvement*. In seeking to build on this effort, the report identifies three priorities for schools – that they:

- *deliver at least one years' growth in learning for every student every year;*
- *equip every student to be a creative, connected and engaged learner in a rapidly changing world; and*
- *cultivate an adaptive, innovative and continuously improving education system.*

CSPA also supports the concept of an evidence based growth mindset in schools no matter the socio-economic backgrounds of students.

Mr Rodrigues concluded that the Review Panel is to be commended for their thoroughness in discerning their findings and looks forward to the strategies that will emerge as key elements of the report are implemented. Five areas of reform are listed in the report under the headings of:

- *Laying the foundations for learning;*
- *Equipping every student to grow and succeed in a changing world;*
- *Creating, supporting and valuing a profession of expert educators;*

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- *Empowering and supporting school leaders; and*
- *Raising and achieving ambitions through innovation and continuous improvement.*

*Ends ..... 30 April 2018*

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