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ASG disappointed by uncertainty of future education funding

ASG is pleased with the federal government's commitment to elements of education spending, but is disappointed by the uncertainty of future education funding.

ASG CEO John Velegrinis says that the federal government did not do enough to present a solid plan to support education, which is a fundamental plank of nation building.

"While it is pleasing to see funding for primary and secondary schools going up by \$4.1 billion over the next four years and \$16.9 million to improve teacher quality, we are disappointed by the lack of a clear strategy to support the future of education in Australia. Parents and students need the certainty and confidence to plan for education.

"We also note there will be significant uncertainty due to no extension or commitment to the Gonski funding model beyond 2018-19 and the federal government's insistence on continuing with its controversial higher education reform plans."

Prior to the federal budget, ASG conducted a pulse check survey and asked parents to name one education issue the government should focus on.

From more than 1500 responses, a resounding 44 per cent of ASG parents wanted the government to put more funding and support into school facilities and resources, early childhood and a continued commitment to the Gonski model of school funding.

Mr Velegrinis said it was important for government to note that more than half of the parents surveyed were interested in broader education issues.

"Parents are clearly telling us that they are interested in more than just how well their children are performing and are engaged with broader education issues such as funding, teacher quality and the curriculum."

ASG member and mother of two primary school children, Eva Suryapranata, said she wanted the government to allocate a funding amount for every school aged child, with socio-economic and disability factors taken into account.

"Education can be expensive, especially if you send your child to a private school. We want the best education for our children and made the decision for both my husband and I to work full-time so that we could afford to send them to a private school.

"We would have liked to see support such as tax incentives or exemption for parents who choose to send their child to a private school. We don't use the government education system, but we're taxed the same way."

Ends.

Media contact:

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Editors notes:

The Australian Scholarships Group (ASG) is a member owned organisation, helping to create educational opportunities for children. ASG has been helping families and their children for more than 40 years. During this time, more than 515,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments returned to members. For more information visit: www.asg.com.au.