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Official Tasmania's Australian Labor Party Federal Election Policy Statement 2019

Labor wants our children to be the best educated in the world. Labor will invest an additional \$14 billion over a decade in public schools across Australia. Under a Shorten Labor government an additional \$52 million will be invested in Tasmanian public schools in the first three school years alone.

We've also made some announcements about our plan to have the best and brightest people choosing teaching as a profession. A future Labor government will target entry to teaching degrees to the top 30 per cent of academic achievers. We'll also ensure there are pathways into teaching for those who might have undertaken other activities after finishing school, but have the aptitude, passion and commitment to become great teachers.

Labor will provide our nation's top achievers bursaries of up to \$40,000 to encourage them into teaching. Year 12 students with exceptional marks and people with outstanding achievement at university or in the workforce will compete for up to 1,000 cash bonuses each year. The tax-free bursaries of \$10,000 per annum will be paid to recipients for the duration of a teaching degree, up to a maximum of four years.

We also want to support our teachers to deliver outstanding teaching throughout their careers. Labor's additional funding for schools will allow proper investment in continuing professional development for teachers, so they can be lifelong learners and continue to build their skills throughout their professional lives. We will also renew the Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers program, providing a career path for teachers by recognising exceptional teaching.

Labor also knows that investing in school leadership is one of the ways we can have the greatest impact on student performance. That is why Labor will set up a new National Principals' Academy to give thousands of Australian principals advanced leadership training and support. We will ask principals' organisations, the states and territories, catholic and independent schools, unions and other organisations to assist us in establishing the Academy and designing the courses on offer.

Training will be available to current and aspiring school principals, as well as other school leaders. There will be a range of courses offered by the Academy, from standalone subjects to programs that run for a couple of years. The Academy will build on and complement existing successful professional development programs for school leavers.

Labor also recently announced that we would increase funding for students with disability by \$300 million over the three years from 2020. This commitment is in addition to the disability loading included as part of needs based school funding. This funding will help students get specialised teaching and support, pay for necessary equipment and alternations to school facilities and provide access to modern technologies that help students. We'll also consult further with disability groups about other ways to ensure that school systems remain accessible and appropriate for students with a disability.

These commitments build on the reforms Labor has already announced. We will:

- work with the states and territories to set out our new national goals for education in a Sydney Declaration;

- invest \$280 million into an Evidence Institute for Schools, so high-quality, independent research drives our education system, the same way it does health;
- get more Australian students studying Asian languages to ensure the next generation is prepared for the jobs and economic opportunities of the Asian century;
- invest in community language schools so that Australian students can learn the language of their parents and grandparents because the earlier children learn a second language, the more likely they will be fluent;
- ensure every Aussie kid has access to swimming and water safety lessons in primary school;
- look at how to improve the insights we get from tests like NAPLAN, and how we can better focus on the progress of students and schools over time;
- provide more funding to organisations that improve school attendance, increase Year 12 completions and employment rates among Indigenous students.
- introduce a new two year National Preschool and Kindy Program guaranteeing around 700,000 Australian children a year will be able to access subsidised preschool.
- protect a new generation of Australian children from cyber risks by creating a new eSmart Digital Licence that would begin rollout from this year. This will help keep our kids safe online and protect them from bullying and cyber bullying, making sure they are responsible users of social media and the internet.

Labor has a plan for education which is backed by evidence about what works, the additional funding to deliver it and proper accountability. Labor wants to work with all stakeholders in the sector to ensure that we have the best education system in the world.

Yours sincerely

**Julie Collins MP**

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Shadow Minister for Mental Health and Ageing