# media release

ACTU
australian council of trade unions

Friday, 21 September 2018

## Morrison must deliver fair funding to public schools

Prime Minister Scott Morrison is trying to use more than $4 billion of taxpayer money to buy his way out of a political mess, while ignoring the needs of 2.5 million public school students across Australia.

The announcement of a funding boost for Catholic and independent schools, with nothing for public schools, violates sector-blind fair funding principles.

Morrison announced the $4.6 billion deal for private schools after a damaging campaign from private school owners cost the Coalition votes at the recent Longman and Braddon by-elections.

There is not a single dollar in the funding announcement for public schools, which had $1.9 billion cut from their 2018-19 budgets by the current Prime Minister when he was Treasurer.

This deal also fails to properly support, recognise or fund the needs of children with disabilities.

**Quotes attributable to ACTU President Michele O'Neil:**

"Every child deserves the best education we can provide, no matter where they go to school.

"But Scott Morrison has prioritised his own short-term political gain over the future of Australian children.

"Working people are sick of seeing politicians cut special deals to buy their way out of political trouble with public money."

"This is a cynical and unfair attempt to buy votes at the expense of the education of 2.5 million children in the public school sector.

"Prime Minister Morrison must reverse the cuts to public schools, establish proper needs-based, sector-blind fair funding of our children's education."

**ENDS**

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