



# 10

great reasons  
why public  
education  
matters



For over 150 years public education has been a critically important part of Australian society. Our public schools not only deliver a high quality education to millions of young people each year but they help strengthen communities and our nation.

Prime Minister  
Kevin Rudd

*“The Commonwealth has a prime obligation to adequately and appropriately fund government schools.”*

Author John Ralston Saul

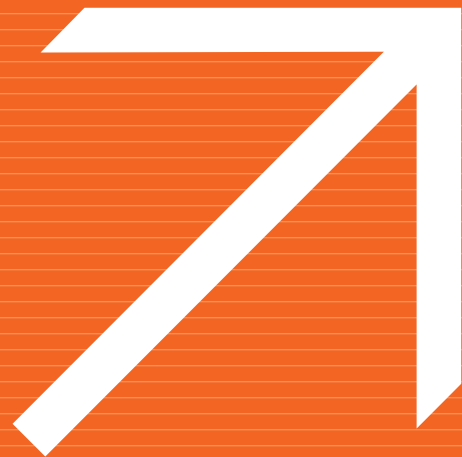
*“That a private system may be able to offer to a limited number of students the finest education in the world is irrelevant. Highly sophisticated élites are the easiest and least original thing a society can produce. The most difficult and the most valuable is a well-educated populace.”*

NSW Governor Marie Bashir

*“I have no doubt that the future of Australia ... can only be assured with confidence through unwavering commitment to public education of the highest quality.”*

Geoffrey Robertson QC

*“A real revolution in education will only come when a government ensures that its state schools set the standard of excellence. Then and only then will we have equity.”*



# Here are ten great reasons why public education matters.

## 01 Providing opportunity for all

Only through public education can we ensure that every child gets the education they deserve.

## 02 Delivering quality education

Australia's public schools and their teachers are recognised as being among the best in the world.

## 03 Meeting every need

Public schools do not turn children away. They educate all children whatever their learning needs.

## 04 Promoting equity

Strong public schools are the key to addressing inequality in our society. They give young people and families the chance to overcome social and economic disadvantage.

## 05 Strengthening our society

Public schools help build mutual understanding between people of different ethnic, religious, vocational and socioeconomic backgrounds. They promote tolerance and inclusion and build respect for diversity and difference.

## 06 Driving prosperity

The key to Australia's ongoing prosperity is a highly skilled and educated workforce. Only through strong public schools can we achieve this goal.

## 07 Helping local communities

Public schools are at the heart of local communities, bringing children and families together to share in the common goals of educating children and keeping communities inclusive and strong.

## 08 Strengthening our democracy

An educated population is the cornerstone of democracy. Our country's wellbeing depends on the decisions of all its educated, informed citizens.

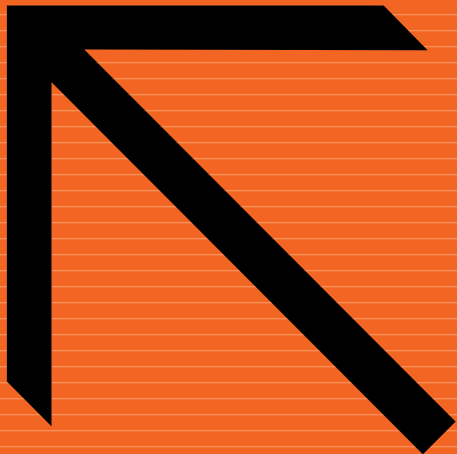
## 09 Securing our future

Children are our nation's future. With strong public schools we can be confident of the education and development of the next generation.

## 10 Providing a voice

Through public school governing bodies and parent organisations people with children at public schools can have an active involvement in their child's education, their local school and their community.

Show your support.  
If you support public  
education join teachers  
and parents in a  
national campaign  
to get more resources  
for our public schools.  
Sign up today at  
[www.forourfuture.org.au](http://www.forourfuture.org.au)



Former High Court judge  
Justice Michael Kirby

*“A large part of the success story of Australia as a modern nation can be traced to the establishment of public schools across our continental country. The time has come for all citizens to make it clear that they demand an end to the under-funding of public education: where the future of the nation is chiefly written.”*



Authorised by Angelo Gavrielatos  
Federal President  
Australian Education Union,  
120 Clarendon Street, Southbank,  
Melbourne 3006