# The Schooling Resource Standard in Australia

IMPACTS ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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### **Purpose of Analysis**

The purpose of this expenditure analysis is to examine the extent to which budget allocations and financial agreements (between governments) will enable public schools to attain the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) minimum funding levels that have been negotiated between governments.

### **Background**

### The SRS is minimum funding required

The Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) is an estimate of how much total public funding a school needs to meet its students' educational needs, and is based on recommendations from the 2011 Review of Funding for Schooling, led by Mr David Gonski AC. The SRS is made up of a base amount for all primary and secondary students and up to six needs-based loadings for student priority cohorts and disadvantaged schools.

The SRS funding amounts were calculated by analysing funding levels in schools (known as 'reference schools') including where at least 80 per cent of students had achieved above the national minimum standard in NAPLAN for reading and numeracy for three years in a row. The SRS funding amounts are indexed each year to keep in line with or surpass any increases to wages and consumer prices.

In terms of government responsibility for schooling, it is important to understand that the SRS is not an aspirational standard of school funding. It is a not a desirable level of funding that would give schools an ideal pool of resources to discharge their teaching and learning obligations towards children.

The SRS is the minimum funding required so that schools can have at least 80% of their students achieving learning outcomes above the national minimum standard in NAPLAN for reading and numeracy. It does not provide for 20% of the hardest to reach students in literacy and numeracy. It makes no provision for attaining learning benchmarks in other subjects. It does not for example, make provision for quality teaching and resources in vocational education and training that might reasonably be expected to be important in reaching students at risk of completing school without meeting expected benchmarks in participation and learning. In other words, the SRS is an essential minimum level of funding for school systems. The SRS is not an aspirational funding standard.

### Current arrangements between governments for school funding.

The current funding arrangements between the Commonwealth and State/Territory governments have now locked in segregated funding discrimination against public schools. This has been progressively delivered in six keyways.

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### Commonwealth overfunds private schools until at least 2029

The Commonwealth has agreed to deliver at least 80% of SRS funding for private schools by 2023. Many of the wealthiest private schools already receive above 80% of their SRS funding from the Commonwealth. In these cases, the wealthiest schools have their funding gradually reduced to 80% by 2029. To make it even easier for them, they are given multiple ways of calculating their educational advantage status. This affords them the softest and most gradual impact on any reduced funding. These wealthiest private schools are overfunded at the same time as governments cannot meet the minimum SRS funding levels required by some of the poorest public schools across the country. This has been agreed to by the Commonwealth through its Bilateral agreements with state! territory governments and with private school systems.

02

### Commonwealth underfunds public schools until at least 2023

The Commonwealth has agreed to deliver up to 20% of SRS funding for public schools by 2023. No public school system (except NT) receives their mandated Commonwealth funding (20% of SRS) until 2023. The Commonwealth adopts a ceiling to its funding of public schools, in contrast to the floor in funding for private schools.

# States and territories overfund private schools but do not reach 75% of SRS targets for public schools until 2023

Under section 22A of the Australian Education Act 2013 (the Act), states and territories must meet or exceed minimum funding contribution requirements for both public (government) and private (non-government) sectors as a condition of receiving Commonwealth funding. State and territory governments have discretion to fund above these requirements. Minimum state and territory funding requirements from 2018 to 2023 are outlined in bilateral reform agreements signed by the Australian Government and each state and territory. Bilateral funding agreements signed between Commonwealth and State/territory governments

- (a) only reach 95% of minimum SRS funding level for public schools (except for ACT) by 2023,
- **(b)** guarantee at least 100% for all private schools by 2023, and
- (c) NSW and QLD continue to overfund private schools (above 20% of SRS) at least until 2023.

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# Capital Depreciation Tax (4%) applied to public but not private schools

The Bilateral Agreements signed (2018/19) between states/territories and the Commonwealth for school funding specify that for **public schools only**, State/territory contributions towards the SRS can include non-recurrent cost (capital depreciation as an accrual cost) as well as the cost of education standards authorities. These authorities provide service to both public and private schools yet are charged entirely as expenses for public schools only.

The majority of the 4% allowable figure is absorbed by the capital depreciation line item. The effect of this tax is that States/territories can reduce by 4% the amount of funding they need to make as part of their contribution towards SRS level funding for public schools. No such reduction is applied by either Commonwealth or State/territory governments towards private schools.

By agreement between the Commonwealth and State/territory governments, all public school systems (except for ACT) by 2023 will be 5%–20% short of minimum required SRS funding to deliver their essential school services.<sup>1</sup>

The greatest shortfall in funding is in the NT where public schools will be 20% short of the SRS funding they require. QLD will be nearly 11% short of its required SRS funding. All the other states have shortfalls of between 5-10% by the year 2023 (except for ACT).

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By agreement between the Commonwealth and State/territory governments, all private school systems (except for NT) by 2022, will be funded more than their specified SRS funding level.

See table to follow for sector analysis by state/territory and year.

### **Table 1. Share of SRS publicly funded**

### **BY SECTOR AND YEAR**

### **PUBLIC**

| STATE            | 2018                     | 2019                     | 2020                     | 2021                     | 2022                     | 2023                     |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| NSW              | 88.6%                    | 89.1%                    | 89.9%                    | 90.6%                    | 91.4%                    | 92.2%                    |
| VIC              | 85.0%                    | 85.8%                    | 86.8%                    | 87.9%                    | 89.2%                    | 90.4%                    |
| QLD              | 87.4%                    | 87.8%                    | 88.2%                    | 88.5%                    | 88.9%                    | 89.3%                    |
| SA               | 91.6%                    | 92.3%                    | 93.0%                    | 93.7%                    | 94.3%                    | 95.0%                    |
| WA               | 99.7%                    | 96.9%                    | 94.8%                    | 93.6%                    | 94.1%                    | 95.0%                    |
| TAS              | 92.2%                    | 92.6%                    | 93.0%                    | 93.3%                    | 93.8%                    | 94.1%                    |
| ACT              | 108.8%                   | 107.5%                   | 106.1%                   | 104.8%                   | 103.3%                   | 100.0%                   |
| NT               | 78.7%                    | 79.1%                    | 79.7%                    | 80.3%                    | 80.4%                    | 80.6%                    |
| WA<br>TAS<br>ACT | 99.7%<br>92.2%<br>108.8% | 96.9%<br>92.6%<br>107.5% | 94.8%<br>93.0%<br>106.1% | 93.6%<br>93.3%<br>104.8% | 94.1%<br>93.8%<br>103.3% | 95.0%<br>94.1%<br>100.0% |

### **PRIVATE**

| STATE | 2018   | 2019   | 2020   | 2021   | 2022   | 2023   |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| NSW   | 102.6% | 102.6% | 100.6% | 102.0% | 105.5% | 106.4% |
| VIC   | 96.8%  | 97.5%  | 96.0%  | 97.8%  | 101.1% | 102.4% |
| QLD   | 100.1% | 100.3% | 99.2%  | 100.2% | 104.2% | 104.5% |
| SA    | 94.9%  | 95.9%  | 95.4%  | 97.2%  | 101.0% | 102.3% |
| WA    | 101.1% | 101.4% | 95.4%  | 97.4%  | 103.3% | 104.1% |
| TAS   | 95.9%  | 96.7%  | 95.9%  | 97.4%  | 100.7% | 101.7% |
| ACT   | 151.6% | 144.6% | 109.8% | 108.4% | 107.8% | 106.2% |
| NT    | 83.6%  | 85.9%  | 87.9%  | 90.5%  | 95.8%  | 97.6%  |

Source: (a) Federal Shares of SRS from SQ 20-000151, (b) State/Territory Shares from Bilateral Agreements between Federal and State/Territory Govts 2018.

 ${\bf Note: Red\ highlighted\ figures\ indicate\ where\ combined\ public\ funding\ is\ below\ SRS\ minimum\ funding\ level.}$ 

### **Study Approach**

The expenditure analysis is based on data from two key sources. Data provided by the Commonwealth in response to a question in the Senate Committee on Education and Employment (Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ20-000151). The second source is the bilateral agreements signed by the Commonwealth government with State/Territory governments. These agreements specify (i) the contribution of each level of government towards the SRS level (expressed as a percentage of SRS). and (ii) the permissible incorporation of capital depreciation costs and curriculum/ examination related costs within the SRS contribution of States/Territories up to a maximum of 4% of the SRS total costs. The permissible incorporation of capital depreciation costs (as specified in the signed Bilateral funding agreements) only applies to the government school sector and is not applied to private schools. This analysis explores the cost implications of this divergence in treatment between the public and private schools.

The analysis provides an estimate of the shortfall in spending for each state and territory during the years 2020–23 when the Bilateral agreements expire. The calculations present the shortfall as a per student amount and as a global cost to each state and territory.

Part A of the school funding analysis excludes the impact of the capital tax that is imposed upon public schools (but not private schools).

Part B separates out the impact of the capital tax on publics schools by state and territory. It then combines the value of this negative

impact on public schools with the results of the Part A analysis to give a measure of the True SRS Funding Gap for public schools in Australia.

### **Data Sources**

The data used for this analysis has been retrieved from the following sources. All are publicly available. They are either reported directly by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Skills and Employment or are part of the Bilateral funding agreements between Commonwealth and State/Territory Govts 2018.

### Data sources for resource allocations

State/Territory resourcing shares — Bilateral Agreements between Commonwealth and State/Territory Govts 2018.

Commonwealth resourcing and SRS values – Senate Standing Committees on Education and Employment QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2019 – 2020 Outcome: Schools Department of Education, Skills and Employment Question. No. SQ20-000151.

### Data source for enrolment projections

Senate Standing Committees on Education and Employment, QUESTION ON NOTICE, Additional Estimates 2019 – 2020, Outcome: Schools, Department of Education, Skills and Employment. Question No. SQ20-000156, Projections for enrolments in schools.

## A. School Funding Analysis – Excluding Capital Tax

The first part of the analysis accepts the segregated application of the capital tax on public schools (see explanation in background section). It does not consider the impact of that tax in reducing the amount of cash resources available to public school systems. It examines the shortfall/excess school funding that is allocated across the public and private school systems by state/territory jurisdiction.

### Total Funding for State/Territory Systems by Sector (excluding capital tax)

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#### **KEY FINDING 1**

Massive \$19 billion Shortfall in Funding for Public Schools 2020–23.

The combined funding of Commonwealth and State/Territory governments leaves Australian public schools with a cumulative shortfall of \$19 billion in required funding to attain the mandated School Resourcing Standard across all states and territories.

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#### **KEY FINDING 2**

NSW, VIC, and QLD each have cumulative shortfalls for 2020–23 that are more than \$5 billion for each respective public school system.

All three states have annual shortfalls in the required SRS funding levels that amount to between \$1.2–1.5 billion every year.

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#### **KEY FINDING 3**

Private schools are overfunded by approximately \$1 billion during the period 2020–23 while public schools are under-funded by \$19 billion.

Private school sectors (in all jurisdictions apart from NT) attain and exceed SRS funding levels by 2022 at the latest. There is greater variety in the attainment of SRS funding levels amongst private schools. NT private schools remain below the SRS funding level for the whole period 2020–23.

Private schools in NSW, Victoria, and Queensland each have annual public funding that is vastly more than their SRS required levels by 2023. NSW private schools are overfunded by \$367 million, Victoria schools by \$118 million and QLD schools by \$180 million in 2023.

**Table 2. Annual Public Funding for Schools** 

ABOVE OR BELOW SCHOOL RESOURCING STANDARD (SRS)

|         | 2020             | 2021             | 2022             | 2023             | CUMULATIVE<br>TOTAL |
|---------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| PUBLIC  | -\$4,872,181,854 | -\$4,879,707,969 | -\$4,714,517,971 | -\$4,514,714,035 | -\$18,981,121,830   |
| NSW     | -\$1,469,388,458 | -\$1,425,227,560 | -\$1,353,904,646 | -\$1,275,297,677 | -\$5,523,818,342    |
| VIC     | -\$1,460,557,476 | -\$1,419,631,974 | -\$1,332,984,043 | -\$1,238,814,907 | -\$5,451,988,399    |
| QLD     | -\$1,232,583,193 | -\$1,256,589,096 | -\$1,262,016,499 | -\$1,264,523,232 | -\$5,015,712,021    |
| SA      | -\$230,740,185   | -\$216,430,997   | -\$206,976,911   | -\$188,790,247   | -\$842,938,340      |
| WA      | -\$265,807,225   | -\$342,166,498   | -\$327,208,168   | -\$288,544,182   | -\$1,223,726,073    |
| TAS     | -\$75,567,859    | -\$74,410,812    | -\$71,955,975    | -\$70,271,426    | -\$292,206,072      |
| ACT     | \$41,630,692     | \$34,453,986     | \$25,435,688     | \$0              | \$101,520,366       |
| NT      | -\$179,168,151   | -\$179,705,018   | -\$184,907,417   | -\$188,472,363   | -\$732,252,949      |
| PRIVATE | -\$332,390,091   | -\$82,349,522    | \$602,479,656    | \$791,573,805    | \$979,313,848       |
| NSW     | \$32,703,364     | \$106,509,264    | \$300,768,987    | \$366,880,256    | \$806,861,871       |
| VIC     | -\$177,061,874   | -\$103,310,735   | \$53,868,192     | \$118,362,025    | -\$108,142,391      |
| QLD     | -\$30,914,812    | \$9,180,605      | \$161,675,842    | \$180,181,271    | \$320,122,906       |
| SA      | -\$57,006,136    | -\$36,130,363    | \$13,322,822     | \$31,483,097     | -\$48,330,580       |
| WA      | -\$80,739,873    | -\$47,472,438    | \$58,681,535     | \$75,726,901     | \$6,196,124         |
| TAS     | -\$15,341,047    | -\$10,234,620    | \$2,795,207      | \$7,081,927      | -\$15,698,533       |
| ACT     | \$24,599,925     | \$22,192,607     | \$21,350,778     | \$17,715,928     | \$85,859,239        |
| NT      | -\$28,629,639    | -\$23,083,842    | -\$9,983,707     | -\$5,857,601     | -\$5,857,601        |

### Per Student Comparisons in Funding (excluding capital tax)



#### **KEY FINDING 4**

By 2022 private school systems in all jurisdictions (except for Northern Territory) have per student allocations more than SRS funding levels. NSW has the highest per student allocations above SRS (\$816 per student by 2023).

### Table 3. SRS Funding for Private Schools is above SRS levels by 2022

#### **PER STUDENT**

|     | 2018     | 2019     | 2020     | 2021     | 2022   | 2023   |
|-----|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------|--------|
| NSW | \$278    | \$290    | \$76     | \$243    | \$678  | \$816  |
| VIC | -\$353   | -\$292   | -\$493   | -\$283   | \$145  | \$315  |
| QLD | \$9      | \$36     | -\$110   | \$32     | \$552  | \$606  |
| SA  | -\$587   | -\$496   | -\$593   | -\$371   | \$136  | \$318  |
| WA  | \$123    | \$167    | -\$580   | -\$338   | \$415  | \$532  |
| TAS | -\$552   | -\$466   | -\$616   | -\$402   | \$108  | \$270  |
| ACT | \$3,258  | \$2,911  | \$862    | \$762    | \$720  | \$587  |
| NT  | -\$3,399 | -\$3,023 | -\$2,727 | -\$2,216 | -\$969 | -\$575 |



### **KEY FINDING 5**

All jurisdictions (except for ACT) under-fund their public school systems by more than \$1,000 per student by 2022 and 2023. The greatest under-funding per student is found in Northern Territory (more than \$6,000) and in QLD (more than \$2,000 per student).

### **Table 4. Underfunding of Public Schools**

### PER STUDENT SPENDING BELOW THE MINIMUM SCHOOL RESOURCING STANDARD

|     | 2018     | 2019     | 2020     | 2021     | 2022     | 2023     |
|-----|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| NSW | -\$1,885 | -\$1,873 | -\$1,815 | -\$1,737 | -\$1,633 | -\$1,525 |
| VIC | -\$2,400 | -\$2,372 | -\$2,285 | -\$2,162 | -\$1,991 | -\$1,819 |
| QLD | -\$2,127 | -\$2,141 | -\$2,152 | -\$2,164 | -\$2,155 | -\$2,147 |
| SA  | -\$1,443 | -\$1,384 | -\$1,303 | -\$1,209 | -\$1,147 | -\$1,040 |
| WA  | -\$44    | -\$533   | -\$922   | -\$1,167 | -\$1,102 | -\$965   |
| TAS | -\$1,373 | -\$1,367 | -\$1,335 | -\$1,313 | -\$1,268 | -\$1,241 |
| ACT | \$1,256  | \$1,108  | \$930    | \$752    | \$544    | \$0      |
| NT  | -\$5,788 | -\$5,932 | -\$5,973 | -\$5,972 | -\$6,125 | -\$6,264 |

### Progress toward attaining the School Resourcing Standard (SRS)

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### **KEY FINDING 6**

Public school systems (with exception of ACT) are stuck at 95% or below the mandated SRS level of funding by 2023.

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### **KEY FINDING 7**

All private school systems (with exception of Northern Territory) are publicly funded above SRS levels by 2023.

Table 5. Percentage of SRS Publicly Funded by Commonwealth & State/Territory govts, (%)

|         | 2018  | 2019 | 2020   | 2021 | 2022 | 2023       |
|---------|-------|------|--------|------|------|------------|
| NSW     | ••••• | •    | •••••• | •    | •    | •••••••••• |
| PUBLIC  | 89%   | 89%  | 90%    | 91%  | 91%  | 92%        |
| PRIVATE | 103%  | 103% | 101%   | 102% | 105% | 106%       |
| VIC     | •     | •    | •      |      |      | •          |
| PUBLIC  | 85%   | 86%  | 87%    | 88%  | 89%  | 90%        |
| PRIVATE | 97%   | 97%  | 96%    | 98%  | 101% | 102%       |
| QLD     | •     |      | •      |      |      |            |
| PUBLIC  | 87%   | 88%  | 88%    | 88%  | 89%  | 89%        |
| PRIVATE | 100%  | 100% | 99%    | 100% | 104% | 105%       |
| SA      |       |      |        |      |      |            |
| PUBLIC  | 92%   | 92%  | 93%    | 94%  | 94%  | 95%        |
| PRIVATE | 95%   | 96%  | 95%    | 97%  | 101% | 102%       |
| WA      |       |      |        |      |      |            |
| PUBLIC  | 100%  | 97%  | 95%    | 94%  | 94%  | 95%        |
| PRIVATE | 101%  | 101% | 95%    | 97%  | 103% | 104%       |
| TAS     |       |      |        |      |      |            |
| PUBLIC  | 92%   | 93%  | 93%    | 93%  | 94%  | 94%        |
| PRIVATE | 96%   | 97%  | 96%    | 97%  | 101% | 102%       |
| ACT     |       |      |        |      |      |            |
| PUBLIC  | 109%  | 107% | 106%   | 105% | 103% | 100%       |
| PRIVATE | 152%  | 145% | 110%   | 108% | 108% | 106%       |
| NT      |       |      |        |      |      |            |
| PUBLIC  | 79%   | 79%  | 80%    | 80%  | 80%  | 81%        |
| PRIVATE | 84%   | 86%  | 88%    | 90%  | 96%  | 98%        |

# B. Impact of the Capital Tax on Public Schools

### Capital Depreciation Tax – A Tax Imposed on Public Schools

The Bilateral Agreements between states! territories and the Commonwealth for school funding specify that for **public schools only**, contributions can include non-recurrent cost (capital depreciation (an accrual cost) as well as the cost of education standards authorities (these authorities provide service to both public and private schools, yet are charged entirely as expenses for public schools only). The majority of the 4% allowable figure is absorbed by the capital depreciation line item. Below is the example from the NSW Bilateral agreement:

Up to 4 per cent of the total SRS for the public sector each year for the following funding:

- NSW Education Standards Authority
- · capital depreciation.

The effect of the 'capital depreciation charge' is to apply a segregated rort against public schools. It harms public schools primarily in that it allows state/territory governments to effectively reduce their cash allocations for public schools, by inserting into their 'contributions' towards the SRS the entirely notional figure for capital depreciation. This is an accrual based allocation that does not touch the side of any real classroom or school. It is in effect a capital depreciation tax.

The injustice of the 'capital depreciation tax' is magnified because it is only and arbitrarily applied to public schools. No such 'capital depreciation tax' is applied to the private sector. Nor are the private schools apportioned (based on their enrolment size) a share of the public costs associated with authorities responsible for education standards and curriculum.

#### **KEY FINDING 8**

The Bilateral Agreements between the Commonwealth and the State/Territory governments that were signed in 2018 and 2019 effectively impose a new tax — a capital depreciation tax on public school systems. Nationally, the capital depreciation tax deprives public schools close to \$2 billion a year. This is the value of additional SRS funds public schools would have received by the earlier Bilateral agreements that did not impose a capital depreciation tax.

### **Table 6. Capital Depreciation Tax**

### - LEVEL OF FUNDING DEPRIVED TO PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS

| STATE             | 2020            | 2021            | 2022            | 2023            | 2020-23<br>CUMULATIVE<br>TOTAL |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| NSW               | \$579,069,343   | \$604,550,397   | \$629,723,091   | \$655,680,040   | \$2,469,022,871                |
| VIC               | \$443,264,788   | \$468,912,295   | \$492,785,228   | \$517,790,975   | \$1,922,753,286                |
| QLD               | \$416,413,241   | \$435,559,479   | \$453,147,756   | \$470,958,373   | \$1,776,078,849                |
| SA                | \$131,851,534   | \$137,416,506   | \$145,246,955   | \$151,032,198   | \$565,547,193                  |
| WA                | \$202,906,279   | \$212,525,775   | \$221,836,046   | \$230,835,345   | \$868,103,445                  |
| TAS               | \$43,120,033    | \$44,557,373    | \$46,051,824    | \$47,480,693    | \$181,209,923                  |
| ACT               | \$0             | \$0             | \$0             | \$0             | \$0                            |
| NT                | \$35,304,069    | \$36,488,329    | \$37,736,208    | \$38,860,281    | \$148,388,886                  |
| NATIONAL<br>TOTAL | \$1,851,929,287 | \$1,940,010,153 | \$2,026,527,108 | \$2,112,637,905 | \$7,931,104,454                |



### **KEY FINDING 9**

The amount of funding lost per public school student from the capital depreciation tax varies across states and territories, from approximately \$650 per annum in WA to more than \$1,200 in per annum NT.

### **Table 7. Capital Depreciation Tax**

- AMOUNT OF FUNDS DEPRIVED PER PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT

| STATE | 2018    | 2019    | 2020    | 2021    | 2022    | 2023    |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| NSW   | \$663   | \$690   | \$715   | \$737   | \$759   | \$784   |
| VIC   | \$640   | \$669   | \$693   | \$714   | \$736   | \$760   |
| QLD   | \$673   | \$700   | \$727   | \$750   | \$774   | \$800   |
| SA    | \$687   | \$719   | \$745   | \$768   | \$805   | \$832   |
| WA    | \$653   | \$679   | \$704   | \$725   | \$747   | \$772   |
| TAS   | \$707   | \$735   | \$762   | \$786   | \$811   | \$839   |
| ACT   | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     |
| NT    | \$1,087 | \$1,135 | \$1,177 | \$1,213 | \$1,250 | \$1,292 |

#### **KEY FINDING 10**

The capital depreciation tax is not applied to the private school systems. This uneven treatment between sectors effectively bequeaths a cumulative gift to private schools of approximately \$2.7 billion in additional funds. This is the value of additional funds currently being allocated by governments to private schools, and which could otherwise be directed to public schools that are slated to remain below the SRS target level beyond 2023.

Table 8. Value of capital depreciation tax

**NOT APPLIED TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS** 

| STATE             | 2020          | 2021          | 2022          | 2023          | 2020-23<br>CUMULATIVE<br>TOTAL |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| NSW               | \$185,106,032 | \$195,164,414 | \$214,029,004 | \$223,153,898 | \$817,453,347                  |
| VIC               | \$158,469,558 | \$168,139,095 | \$183,630,286 | \$191,069,633 | \$701,308,572                  |
| QLD               | \$130,309,543 | \$138,627,978 | \$151,120,797 | \$157,720,626 | \$577,778,945                  |
| SA                | \$44,393,776  | \$47,421,048  | \$50,852,854  | \$52,764,618  | \$195,432,296                  |
| WA                | \$62,307,409  | \$66,147,412  | \$71,413,987  | \$73,994,960  | \$273,863,768                  |
| TAS               | \$13,429,188  | \$14,407,185  | \$15,551,350  | \$16,197,190  | \$59,584,913                   |
| ACT               | \$7,210,434   | \$7,608,441   | \$10,461,191  | \$10,915,224  | \$36,195,290                   |
| NT                | \$8,697,339   | \$8,929,142   | \$9,283,559   | \$9,494,959   | \$36,404,999                   |
| NATIONAL<br>TOTAL | \$609,923,280 | \$646,444,714 | \$706,343,027 | \$735,311,109 | \$2,698,022,130                |



#### **KEY FINDING 11**

The True SRS Funding Gap in resources made available to Australian public schools is approximately \$6.7 billion every year during the period 2020-23. The cumulative shortfall over the four years 2020-23 amounts to approximately \$27 billion.

The True SRS Funding Gap includes the negative impact of the capital depreciation tax on public schools. The True SRS Funding Gap captures the shortfall in funding for public schools. The True SRS Funding Gap is the amount of additional funding required by public schools so they can meet the needs of at least 80% of their students for satisfactory participation and learning outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

### **Table 9. True SRS Funding Gap**

#### - INCLUDING IMPACT OF CAPITAL TAX ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

| PUBLIC<br>SECTOR | 2020             | 2021             | 2022             | 2023             | CUMULATIVE<br>FUNDING GAP<br>2020-23 |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| NSW              | -\$2,048,457,801 | -\$2,029,777,957 | -\$1,983,627,738 | -\$1,930,977,717 | -\$7,992,841,213                     |
| VIC              | -\$1,903,822,263 | -\$1,888,544,269 | -\$1,825,769,271 | -\$1,756,605,882 | -\$7,374,741,685                     |
| QLD              | -\$1,648,996,434 | -\$1,692,148,574 | -\$1,715,164,255 | -\$1,735,481,606 | -\$6,791,790,870                     |
| SA               | -\$362,591,719   | -\$353,847,503   | -\$352,223,866   | -\$339,822,445   | -\$1,408,485,533                     |
| WA               | -\$468,713,504   | -\$554,692,273   | -\$549,044,214   | -\$519,379,527   | -\$2,091,829,518                     |
| TAS              | -\$118,687,892   | -\$118,968,185   | -\$118,007,799   | -\$117,752,120   | -\$473,415,996                       |
| ACT              | \$41,630,692     | \$34,453,986     | \$25,435,688     | \$0              | \$101,520,366                        |
| NT               | -\$214,472,221   | -\$216,193,346   | -\$222,643,624   | -\$227,332,644   | -\$880,641,836                       |
| NATIONAL         | -\$6,724,111,142 | -\$6,819,718,122 | -\$6,741,045,079 | -\$6,627,351,941 | -\$26,912,226,284                    |

### ADAM RORRIS

Adam Rorris is an education economist and policy analyst working extensively in Australia and overseas. He has worked for the World Bank, UNICEF, UNESCO, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and other international agencies to help develop robust funding systems for national school systems throughout Asia and the Pacific. During 2002-2007 Adam worked as the Manager/Principal Analyst of the Schools Resourcing Taskforce for the Ministerial Council of Australian Education Ministers. He has worked with all state and Commonwealth departments of education as well as representatives of the nongovernment school sector.