You will have undoubtedly heard of the Gonski Report in the media in recent weeks. This report led by David Gonski, has recommended that Australia spend an extra $5 billion a year on education in order to restore the world class standards we have enjoyed in the past. States and territories fund schools from the general revenue they receive from Canberra. Canberra also gives them money specifically for education, but between 65 and 70% of it goes to private schools.

The Gillard Government specified to the Gonski Review panel members that, in making its recommendations, no school — private or state— should get less money than they now receive.

After an 18-month inquiry, the Gonski review said schools teaching disadvantaged students should get much more money to help them deliver more learning support and better facilities. Student learning in disadvantaged areas are up to three years behind that of students of the same age who live in more affluent areas. State schools now teach between 70 and 90% of students with disabilities and disadvantaged students, including those from low-income families and families speaking English as a second language.

Under the Gonski proposals, state schools would get, on average, an extra $1500 per student every year. For a primary school with 500 students, this equates to an extra $750,000 a year, every year.

Your help is needed to encourage the Gillard Government to promptly introduce a fairer funding system. Incidentally, the Coalition, led by Tony Abbott, has said it will not change the existing funding system, which is weighted towards private schools, until at least 2017.

How can you help? Our politicians need to know that denying children the resources they need is unacceptable.

- Go to www.igiveagonski.com.au to register your support for better funding. While there you can also send an email to the Prime Minister.

- You can also write to, or email, your federal Member of Parliament. To find your federal member’s contact details go to australia.gov.au/directories/contact-parliament

If you have any questions or would like to know other ways to offer support please feel free to speak to Susie Baker (Parent) or Tanya Burton (Teacher).