



PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

Reference: C12/59544

20 OCT 2012

Ms Jane Baker
President
Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc
PO Box 224
ENMORE NSW 2042

~~Dear Ms Baker~~ *Jane*

Thank you for your letter of 6 September 2012 regarding the Australian Federation of Graduate Women's support for a needs-based school funding system and the concerns about the education needs of rural and isolated children. I apologise for the delay in responding.

As you note, on 3 September 2012 I announced the Australian Government's response to the Review of Funding for Schooling (the 'Review'). I indicated that the Government will adopt the Review's core recommendation for a new needs-based funding model, and a new National Plan for School Improvement. I also indicated that I would lead discussions to agree these arrangements with state and territory Governments, and non-government school authorities.

The new funding model would establish an entitlement for all Australian school students based on a Schooling Resource Standard to be calculated on what it costs to educate a student at schools we already know get strong results. A range of loadings for disadvantage would also apply to support students and schools with extra needs.

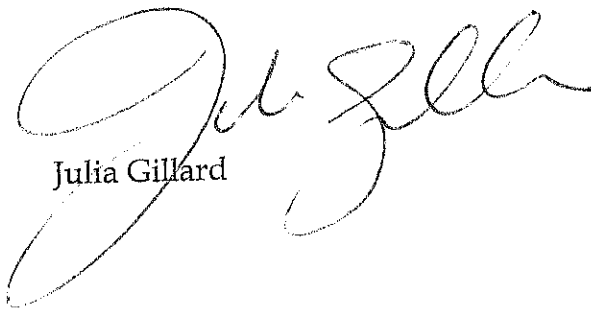
These loadings include support for schools in regional, rural and remote locations that are faced with higher costs in delivering education. The intention is give schools more equitable funding to ensure all students are able to thrive, no matter their circumstances, location or ability.

The details of the proposed arrangements, including how they would apply to boarding schools and education programs for isolated children, continue to be worked through in discussions with the states and territories and non-government education stakeholders.

As these matters fall within the responsibilities of the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP,
Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth, I have copied this
correspondence to him for his information.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to raise your concerns with me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia Gillard', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name 'Julia Gillard'.

Julia Gillard