MEDIA RELEASE

LABOR WILL NOT BACK GUTTING OF SCHOOL’S PLAN

Labor will not support the Coalition’s cynical move to go ahead with $2.3 billion in savings from higher education when they have abandoned the six year plan they were designed to fund.

Shadow Higher Education Minister, Senator Kim Carr, said that in government Federal Labor increased spending on universities, science and research to record levels.

“We increased spending on universities from $8.1 billion in 2007 to $14 billion in 2013,” said Senator Carr.

“The savings we identified were set against this proven record of growth in support for higher education.

“They were proposed for the very specific purpose of funding Labor’s $11.5 billion Better Schools Plan.

“That six year plan was based on the most comprehensive review of our schools system in two decades.
“It targeted equity and addressed the imbalances and inequalities Labor inherited from John Howard’s ineffective and unfair system.

“In return for increased funding our six year plan stopped signatory states from cutting funding to schools and ensured that they would not only maintain but increase the amount of money flowing to students.

“Labor’s plan was clear and the Coalition signed on to supporting it.

“The Coalition made a clear cut promise prior to the election, which they have now broken.

“Yesterday’s pre-question time stunt did nothing to change that.

“The Abbott Government has abandoned proper funding and a meaningful six year reform program.

“They have handed the states a blank cheque to do with as they wish, with no checks and no guarantee that they won’t continue the cuts to education budgets we have seen over the last few years.

“Under Abbott’s plan the Commonwealth will pour money in from the top only to have it come running out the other end with no assurances that students will benefit.

“We are not going to support Abbott’s second rate deal for students. We are not going to let him just walk away from his election promises.”

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