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ONLY ACT LABOR CAN GUARANTEE MORE FUNDING FOR EVERY CANBERRA SCHOOL

Minister for Education and Training, Andrew Barr, today said that no matter which school Canberra parents choose to send their children to, they can be guaranteed more funding for that school under a re-elected ACT Labor Government – a guarantee that cannot be given by any other party.

“ACT Labor is committed to providing quality education for all Canberra’s students, no matter which school they go to,” Mr Barr said.

“Since coming to office in 2001 we have increased funding for public schools by over 40% and non-government schools by over 35%. We have now released a comprehensive \$51.4 million education policy that outlines our spending priorities if re-elected.

“Under this policy, every single school in Canberra will receive more funding –every preschool, primary, high school and college as well as every catholic and independent school.

“This means every single student in the ACT will benefit from a re-elected ACT Labor government.”

Mr Barr said ACT Labor’s commitment is not matched by the Liberals or the Greens.

“Our guarantee is in stark contrast to the Liberals who have not released their full education policy less than a week from the election,” Mr Barr said.

“From what little they have released so far there is absolutely nothing for the early childhood or college years and nothing for non-government schools – three significant and important areas for education.

“We also know from their comments regarding the record \$90 million to upgrade every public school as “throwing good money after bad” that the improvements to every public school in the ACT are under a significant question mark.

“Similarly, the Greens have released their education policy that states all school funding will be on the basis of need. Greens candidate Shane Rattenbury has confirmed this and said the Greens funding policy would not differentiate between government and non-government schools.

“The Greens now need to clarify what their criteria for judging need would be and reveal which schools will have their funding cut under their policy.

Media release

“The parents of Canberra have a right to know whether public schools such as Telopea Park School, Lyneham High, Turner Primary, Ainslie Primary, Red Hill Primary, Forrest Primary, Yarralumla Primary and Dickson College will have their funding reduced because they are not in suburbs of high socio-economic need.”

Statement Ends

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