



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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GOVERNMENT MUST ANNOUNCE SCHOOLS FUNDING

Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson says the Howard Government must immediately announce which public schools have secured funding under Round 2 of the Investing in Our Schools Program (IOSP).

Schools in Newcastle have been waiting since August 2005 when they applied for funding for vital infrastructure projects such as classroom upgrades, libraries, computer facilities, air-conditioning, outdoor and play areas, furniture, and security.

To make it worse, Round 3 applications are due in a week.

"Schools need to know whether they are successful in Round 2 before they apply for further funding," Ms Grierson said.

"These projects can be up to \$150,000 each. The Howard Government delays are leaving the plans of many Newcastle schools up in the air."

"The question needs to be asked: is this more Howard Government bungling or does it have something to hide?"

"The Government should be very careful not to politicise schools funding."

"In Round 1, schools in Coalition-held electorates received far more funding than schools in Labor-held electorates. In fact, the 19 electorates receiving the most funding were all Coalition-held."

"Schools should be funded on the basis of need, not on whether a Liberal MP can get a photo opportunity."

"The Howard Government must announce all successful IOSP Round 2 applications immediately."

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