



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
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# Media Release

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## NELSON RUNNING SCARED

Brendan Nelson is playing the politics of desperation releasing for at least the third time a "hit list of Labor's private schools".

Nelson claims that Newcastle Grammar school will have funding reduced under a Latham Labor government because its fees are over \$9000 per year. This is not true and is just another attempt by the Howard government to scare and divide.

Labor has given a commitment that total funding to non-government schools will not be reduced - but it will be reallocated on need. Labor will fund schools on need so that every child has the opportunity to succeed.

That means the special needs of schools like the Newcastle Autism School, St Dominic's School for Hearing Impaired and the Margaret Jurd and ALESCO second chance programs will be taken into account.

Brendan Nelson is running scared after Mark Latham and Jenny Macklin today signed a communiqué with state and territory governments that promises increased funding to public schools and makes high quality government schools a priority all around this nation.

That means 70% of Newcastle students and their families can be confident that their schools won't continue to lose out in the battle for funds. Students like a Year 7 Kotara High student who came along to a community forum at Adamstown last night to tell me her school is raising money for new bubblers and to ask me why private schools are getting more money than they are.

A Labor government will invest in our future by linking funding to a National School Resource Standard that guarantees all schools the funding they need to deliver a 21st Century standard of education. That means more attention and more opportunity for students in Newcastle.

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