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### **NEW FUNDING FOR STUDENTS WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS**

Dear School Representative Bodies

This week I announced \$12.7 million in funding over four years to increase support for students with additional needs.

The increase in funding will commence in Term 1, 2022 and go directly to mainstream public schools who have students with additional needs. The funding will be needs-based and increase support for students assessed as needing substantial and extensive assistance under the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on Students with a Disability.

Importantly, it will ensure that additional support will be provided to mainstream public schools who have students who are assessed as eligible to attend one of our special schools. For some students, it will increase their school funding allocation by up to \$25,000, ensuring they have the support they need.

This change comes in response to advocacy from families, teachers and principals. I thank those who have contacted me about this.

Thank you to all families for the advocacy and support you provide for our students with additional and complex needs in public schools across the Territory. Many of you work closely with school staff and we will have more to say about we can improve our support to them in the coming weeks.

There is more work to do and the Government will continue to invest in the Remote Aboriginal Teacher Education program, Families as First Teachers, expanding three-year-old preschool, and our Education Engagement Strategy.

I look forward to meeting with school representative bodies at the COGSO Annual Full Council Meeting in September.

Thank you

LAUREN MOSS