

## Show us the money

PRIMARY school leaders from around Australia were pleased last year when federal Education Minister Julia Gillard announced an extra \$100 per primary student to end an unfair practice in which state primary schools received a smaller proportion of funding per student than state secondary schools.

But there is a sting in the tail. Primary funding has not flowed through to individual school global budgets as anticipated.

We are still seeking clarification but it is disappointing as our understanding was that the money would appear tagged in the state budget back-paid to January 1. Primary school principals were expecting to get an extra \$100 per student in

their global school budgets to go towards the specific needs of their schools. In the era of self-management, our leaders allocated school funds in their planning for this year.

It is patently unfair that the money has not reached school communities and students, who will miss out on planned programs to help teaching and learning.

**Gabrielle Leigh, president, Victorian Principals Association, North Melbourne**

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