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Putting model to test

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EDUCATION EDITOR

PUBLIC and private school representatives have been asked to test the new funding model proposed by the Gonki review with their own figures.

At the first meeting, last week, of the ministerial reference group which will provide advice to the Government on the next stages of school funding reform, education leaders were provided with the model stripped of data to take away.

School Education Minister Peter Garrett said the model, called the Student Resourcing Standard, comprised a base grant and loadings for disadvantage, which was not a new idea.

"But the specifics of this version of an SRS model stripped of data to take away," he said. "And have provided us with a rational premise from which to begin the next stage of work."

"To test the model, we now need up-to-date data that has the confidence of all stakeholders, and we need (their) consideration and analysis of the model proposed by the panel and any subsequent versions."

David Gonki, right, who headed the review, said the panel tried to design funding incentives consistent with the educational challenge such as Australia’s declining performance internationally and the impact of disadvantage on outcomes.

"We were very keen to move away from sectorial basis for funding as far as possible – we want to fund need wherever it occurs and on the same basis independent of sector," he said. "...we wanted once and for all to recognise the educational system involves government and non-government sectors and we should accept that and move on to make for the best education."

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