

Meeting with the Hon. Donald J Trump, President of the United States of America

PRIME MINISTER:

Congratulations on your vote today.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Thank you very much. It was great. Big day.

PRIME MINISTER:

Big day. Every vote counts.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

You got it. We had a couple left over and we wanted them, we didn't need them. It was a very big day. Really – I appreciate your waiting.

PRIME MINISTER:

Well, I know the feeling. We have challenges with our parliament too. We have only 29 seats in a Senate of 76 so you need a lot of work to get legislation through.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

That means you're doing a good job.

PRIME MINISTER:

When you get it passed, you are. Yeah that's right.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

It's great to be with you.

JOURNALIST:

How are you getting along?

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We get along great. We get along great. Always have.

JOURNALIST:

How important is the relationship with Australia Mr President?

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

I love Australia. We have a fantastic relationship. But I love Australia, always have. Greg Norman is here today, a friend of ours. We have a lot of friends here tonight.

PRIME MINISTER:

A lot of friends in common.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

A lot of friends in common.

JOURNALIST:

Do you think you can you put the refugee deal behind you and move on?

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Oh yeah sure. That's all worked out. That has been worked out for a long time.

JOURNALIST:

Telephone calls going will be good in future?

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We had a good telephone call.

PRIME MINISTER:

We had a great call.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

You guys exaggerated that call. That was a big exaggeration. We had a great call. I mean, we're not babies. (Laughter) But we had a great call. Right?

PRIME MINISTER:

Young at heart – young at heart.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We had a very, very good call. It was a little bit of fake news – that's the expression.

PRIME MINISTER:

Exactly right.

JOURNALIST:

When can we expect you in Australia Mr Trump?

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

That will happen. One of the great, great places. One of the most beautiful places on earth. I have so many friends there. I will be there. We will be there – absolutely we will be there.

PRIME MINISTER:

We are looking forward to it.

JOURNALIST:

You're here celebrating the Battle of the Coral Sea, how important is the event tonight?

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Great, I will be speaking about the Battle of the Coral Sea tonight. That was some battle. That was a very important battle for both of us.

PRIME MINISTER:

It was.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

We did it together.

PRIME MINISTER:

We did. It saved Australia and it was the turning point in the war. I was just up on the flight deck with some of the veterans, American and Australian veterans. They were teenagers when they turned the war, the tide of war-

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Turned it around.

PRIME MINISTER:

And Australia and America started to win.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

So we have been allies for 99 years. Can you imagine that? 99 years and never a bad time. It is a great, great thing.

JOURNALIST:

Mr President, how hard is it going to be to get that health care deal through the Senate?

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

I think we will get it through. The Republicans are very united like seldom before. I mean you have seen that today. The Republicans came together all of a sudden two days ago and it was like magic. They just came together. They are very, very united. Every group from Freedom Caucus to Tuesday to every single group. A lot of groups. A lot of great people. But they are very very united. You saw that today and you will see it again. The Senate is looking forward to getting it. Mitch McConnell knows how to do things. And I think we are going to have some really great healthcare for a long time.

JOURNALIST:

President Trump, what do you say to some of the congressmen who are concerned about how it will change in the Senate?

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Well it could change a little bit. It could get maybe even better. It is a very good bill right now. The premiums are going to come down very substantially. The deductibles are going to come down. It is going to be fantastic healthcare.

Right now Obamacare is failing. We have a failing healthcare. I shouldn't say this to our great gentleman and my friend from Australia, because you have better health care than we do. But we are going to have great healthcare very soon. Obamacare is failing. The insurance companies are leaving, Aetna announced they are out from Obamacare. Some states, you look at a lot of states, a lot of different states, you look at Tennessee, you look at Kentucky is now trouble, Iowa is in trouble. The insurance companies are all leaving. Obamacare is dead. So when you compare something to Obamacare, Obamacare is no longer living. We have something that is going to be, I think, one of the best anywhere in the world and we look forward to it.

JOURNALIST:

Mr President, can I ask you about your tweet on foreign policy and international issues. It's unconventional for a President, is it an asset or a liability for your foreign policy?

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Social media is the way to go. I have got over 100 million people watching and social media to me is the way to go. This way, if somebody's not treating you properly or if you do have indeed fake media – not all of it is fake, some of it is fantastic actually – but you can just sort of circumvent. But you know, I find, I don't know if you find that but I find social media is the way to go between the different forums. There are many different forums but it is a fast way of getting the word out. I really think it helped today in healthcare. I think it is a great way to communicate and it is a modern way to communicate.

Thank you very much.

[ENDS]

Interview with Daniela Ritorto, SBS

DANIELA RITORTO:

Prime Minister, thank you for your time. Here we are a couple of days before the Budget and you're about to board a plane to New York. Is this face-to-face meeting with Donald Trump that important you have to go now?

PRIME MINISTER:

Look it is very important. The US Alliance is the absolute bedrock of Australia's security and we have a lot of big issues to discuss.

North Korea – you understand the enormous risks that are being brought to bear by the reckless and dangerous conduct of the North Korean Government. There is a lot at stake.

And of course, in the Middle East we have over 1,700 personnel, Australian Defence Force personnel between the Iraq and Afghanistan – working there, side-by-side with the United States.

DANIELA RITORTO:

Are you a little bit worried though it might be awkward – he did give you that ear bashing on the phone. This is the same President who refused to shake the hand of the German Chancellor, an ally. He's unpredictable. It could all go pear shaped. Surely you're a bit nervous?

PRIME MINISTER:

I think the reports of that telephone conversation have been greatly exaggerated. I can say that it was, and indeed have been inaccurate – it was a frank, forthright and it was courteous. I look forward to a very valuable discussion and a first meeting in person with the President.

DANIELA RITORTO:

I made the point though about the President's unpredictability to make a more serious wider point. How does Australia chart a foreign policy course when you do get mixed messages from the President? Take North Korea – on the one hand we are talking about a military threat from the United States, on the next hand the President is talking about it would be an honour to meet Kim Jong-un.

PRIME MINISTER:

Well I think the message is very clear that all parties, all nations should aim to resolve differences diplomatically.

The important thing is that the dangerous, reckless threatening conduct by North Korea comes to an end. Now that is going to require a concerted effort by the nations with the most leverage over North Korea and of course nobody has more leverage than China. That is why I have said and I know the President has echoed this, that the eyes of the world are on Beijing because Beijing has that very, has the overwhelming economic relationship with North Korea.

DANIELA RITORTO:

Paul Keating had some free advice for you last week. He said Australia needs to stop bowing down to the United States and chart a proper independent foreign policy course.

PRIME MINISTER:

Well I don't accept the premise of his remark. Australia stands up for Australian values and Australian interests. But we always speak our mind. Australian Prime Ministers should always and I always do and I believe every Australian Prime Minister has done is speak up for Australia's interest and act in Australia's national interest. But our interests and those of the United States are very consistent.

DANIELA RITORTO:

Do you have a message for President Trump or are you there very much to listen over the next 48-hours?

PRIME MINISTER:

It will be a discussion and it will be a discussion and a meeting and an engagement and I have had several calls with him already, but we, you know, we have a very strong alliance.

I cannot, and you know, I understand why these relationships get put into the context of personalities but the Alliance between Australia and the United States is not only of more than 60 years longstanding in a formal sense – nearly a century in reality – but it is built on millions of people-to-people links. Family links, business links, shared values, shared cultural values, a shared history.

And so our national interests have been coinciding, working together in freedom's cause for all that time and Presidents and Prime Ministers have a very important role to play. Of course we do. But this is like a great tide, always, Australia and the United States, shared values and a shared destiny.

DANIELA RITORTO:

Okay, you said the relationship is not influenced by personally but surely President Trump is already having an influence on Australian policy. Suddenly we've got crack downs on foreign workers. We are making harder, you've announced it is going to be harder for Australians to become citizens. Is that sort of the Trump-era, the Trump-effect taking hold here?

PRIME MINISTER:

Not at all.

You know, you've made an assertion that I don't accept. What I said about Australian values and Australian citizenship reflects views that I have held for many years. In fact, I made exactly those points when I was Chairman of the Republican Movement all those years ago. It is not the colour of your skin or your face or your ethnic background – we do not define our national identity by reference to race, religion, ethnicity. It is a truly political commitment of shared values.

And so what we are doing I think is paying greater respect to citizenship and is it unreasonable to say that people should have a competent understanding and ability to read and write and speak English to become an Australian citizen? How can you succeed? How can you progress effectively in Australia without English?

DANIELA RITORTO:

It takes time. Do you accept that? Some of the most successful people in this country came to this country without English skills.

PRIME MINISTER:

Well, of course. Very successful people did come to Australia without English skills but they acquired them.

This is an empowering decision. It is an empowering policy. It is enabling people to do their best and succeed in Australia as citizens of this remarkable multicultural society. The most successful in the world.

[ENDS]

[Entries open for Prime Minister's Literary Awards](#)

Entries are now open for the 2017 Prime Minister's Literary Awards which celebrate great Australian literature.

The Turnbull Government is proud to support the literary arts and these awards recognise outstanding contemporary Australian literature and history. Our authors, poets, illustrators and historians foster our culture and help to form our national identity.

The Awards acknowledge writing talent across six categories: fiction, poetry, non-fiction, Australian history, young adult fiction and children's fiction.

The Australian history category is open to a range of media including journals, magazines, film, radio and online content.

Expert judges will assess the entries and make recommendations to the Prime Minister. The winner of each category will be awarded \$80,000 in prize money and shortlisted authors will receive \$5,000 in prize money.

Australian authors, publishers and producers are invited to enter the Awards which will close on Friday 2 June.

Entries must have been published, produced or broadcast between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2016.

Entry forms and eligibility guidelines are available at:

www.arts.gov.au/pm-literary-awards

[Doorstop with the Minister for Education and Training, Senator the Hon. Simon Birmingham and the Assistant Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, the Hon. Craig Laundry MP](#)

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE:

A very big welcome to the Education Minister Simon Birmingham and the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. I am not quite as excited as the kids of North Strathfield to have you here who have been over the moon to see you, but on behalf of the parents of Reid, Prime Minister and Minister, a big thank you.

This school is one that will over the next ten years receive \$4.4 million in additional funding. You've had the opportunity this morning to see and have a look at what has been achieved so far and listened to the principal Frances Brewer, who has very kindly hosted us this morning – thank you Frances – about what will be achieved.

You are always welcome here PM and Simon and thanks very much for making this stop today.

PRIME MINISTER:

Well thank you Craig and thank you very much Frances and thanks to all the

kids and the teachers.

Look, six years ago David Gonski presented a big idea which was that funding for schools should be based on the needs of the students and it should be fairly allocated and it should be consistent across Australia. It shouldn't depend on what state you live in, or what system you're being educated in. Needs-based, consistent, across Australia – that is what we are delivering.

The announcement Simon and I made yesterday with David Gonski is delivering on that vision. Needs-based funding. We are committing \$18.6 billion in additional funding over the next decade and by the end of that decade, right across the country, the funding will be consistent. It will be consistent here and in every state and territory in Australia.

And of course, having achieved that, having delivered on that funding objective, on that big vision of equity for all students, the next step now is to ensure that we get the best outcomes – great teachers, great schools, great results for these little kids here today and thousands more like them. We owe it to them to ensure the public money we're investing in schools, in their future gives them the best educational outcomes so they're at the top of the class.

We've seen in recent years and Simon will explain Australia slipping backwards in terms of results versus those in comparable countries. That's not good enough. Australians should be winners. We should be at the top of the class. That is our commitment to ensure that with these substantial funding commitments that we've made and that states will make, and that parents make in the non-government system as well, that we get the best outcomes.

So that is Gonski 2.0.

We've realised the vision that was set out in the first Gonski report. We are delivering on that Gonski vision and now the next step is to ensure that we get the great results from the very substantial financial commitment we are making.

Birmo – I'll ask you to add to those remarks.

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

Thanks Prime Minister and what an awesome example this morning of an incredible school with hard-working dedicated school leaders, teachers, and inspiring children who have taken what has been a record level of funding already and invested it so wisely, so carefully into additional support for their students, additional support that drives up literacy and numeracy skills, that improves their exposure to foreign languages, that enhances their knowledge in science. These are the things we want to see happening at every school right around Australia and we can do that and we will achieve that by implementing the Turnbull Government's vision for a single needs-based sector-blind school resourcing standard right across the country informed by, built upon the recommendations of David Gonski's 2011 report.

We are having the courage to implement the vision for schools in Australia that was frankly squibbed by the previous government and they implemented instead 27 different deals based on ancient sweetheart arrangements that ensured inconsistency, that left a system where different schools in different states were getting different levels of federal funding despite having exactly the same need and circumstances. We want to end that and we will end that with our reforms.

And we will invest more as well to make sure that the transition to a consistent model of funding is a fair one for all systems – government, independent, Catholic – all see strong growth above inflation, above wages, above any reasonable measure right across the economy.

And of course we have commissioned David Gonski together with a panel of education experts to do a second significant piece of work, and that second significant piece of work is because we are acting on the recommendations of his first report and now rather than looking at how much money the system has, or how it is distributed we want David to do a piece of work that looks at how it can best be spent by schools like this one to deliver the best possible lift in student performance right across our education system.

Craig, as you outlined before, this school is a significant beneficiary, like more than 9,000 other schools right around Australia.

Next year under our reforms this school will receive more than \$70,000 in additional funding. Each year over the next ten years, it will get \$70-80-90,000 extra additionally each and every year, building up to more than \$4 million in additional funding for a school like this, based on the need of the school.

As we saw going around, this is a school with a high number of students who come from backgrounds, language backgrounds other than English. That is one of the need factors that we support under a fair needs-based model, along with students from low socio-economic backgrounds, students with a disability, students from schools in small rural and regional areas of Australia. These are the types of things that give us a system that sees credibility and allows us to focus on what matters most, which is backing hard-working principals, teachers, school administrators and support staff to help our students achieve their best.

PRIME MINISTER:

Thank you.

JOURNALIST:

Prime Minister, some criticism from the Catholic system this morning about the plan. They're saying they've been targeted and that they weren't properly consulted. Have you blindsided them?

PRIME MINISTER:

Well I might ask the Minister to respond to that but the funding increase

over the decade for the Catholic system is 3.7 per cent, across the system. So they are seeing real growth, strong growth. But I'll ask the Minister to talk more about the consultation.

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

I've had numerous meetings over not just the course of the last few months, but over the entire period of time as Education Minister, talking to state ministers, to school representatives from the Catholic sector, and independent lobbies, about what it is they want to see in our school funding approaches.

Unsurprisingly, people who didn't get everything they asked for might sometimes complain about the consultation. That doesn't mean there wasn't consultation. It just means that we are not going to continue with a system that is based on special deals for one state or another state, one sector or another sector.

Our proposal is to treat every school fairly, equitably, under the same terms, regardless of their background, regardless of their school sector, regardless of their faith. That's an incredibly fair approach to take.

But in terms of the support for Catholic schools, as the Prime Minister indicated, there is growth. Growth over the next four years, in the Catholic school sector of \$1.2 billion in extra funding. Growth on a per student basis over the next four years, of around 3.7 per cent. This is real growth that's going into that sector.

Yes, there is faster growth in the government sector. Yes, we're transitioning everybody to a common point under a common model. But ultimately there is no reason why Catholic parish schools in regional areas of Australia or outer suburban areas should face any penalty under a model where funding is growing by 3.7 per cent and where the need of those smaller regional schools or communities with higher numbers of lower socio-economic people, or migrant populations or the like, will all receive additional funding, whether they are in a government school, an independent school or a Catholic school.

JOURNALIST:

Some ACT Catholic schools this morning reported that they might have to close because the deal that they struck with Gillard will be abolished and their funding won't change. Can you guarantee there won't be any school closures?

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

I think there is a lot of exaggeration coming from the odd commentator at present. I was really pleased on Adelaide radio for example this morning to have a Catholic school principal ring in and tell us how excited he was about what we were proposing, how positive it was for investment in schools, including in Catholic schools to have a true needs-based model built on the needs of those schools from the ground up.

Now there are some sectors in some jurisdictions that need some special support for transition. And we have committed to work with them, including the Catholic sector in the ACT.

But across every other jurisdiction in Australia, Catholic schools will see funding growth, at a minimum in Victoria, 3.5 per cent per student, growing up to around 4.5 per cent per student in Tasmania. They are all starting from different positions. We want to transition them to a common point. Of course to get them to that common scenario in 10 years, we have to index them at different levels. That's because of the history, the legacy of special deals that have left us with the mess we have at present that this government is taking the action no-one before has done to clean up.

JOURNALIST:

When are you planning to introduce this legislation to Parliament? Will it be next week?

PRIME MINISTER:

The legislation will be introduced in the Budget sessions, I believe.

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

In the next couple of weeks.

PRIME MINISTER:

In the next couple of weeks – yeah.

JOURNALIST:

And if it doesn't get passed? How much money can the schools expect in the coming-

PRIME MINISTER:

I often get this question about what will happen if legislation doesn't get through the Senate. Amazingly, we get a lot of legislation through the Senate. So, we are confident that the merits of this proposal will be appealing to a majority of senators. We will be working hard to persuade all senators, including the Labor Party and the Greens and crossbenchers, to support it.

This is delivering on that great vision of David Gonski's. I mean, who can argue with the proposition that funding should be needs-based? Who can argue with that? Who can argue with the proposition that it should be consistent across Australia?

So this is a fair approach.

Now we have obviously got to get there, get to that point as soon as we can. We are allowing 10 years to do so. That is why during that 10 years, some

schools will advance at different rates to others. But you've to get to that point, otherwise you end up like the Labor Party, where the Labor Party has left us with 27 conflicting and different deals, all these special deals. Under their model, it would take 150 years – literally 150 years – for there to be that fairness, that consistency and fairness.

So we think this is a very strong proposal. It is a very strong reform. It is consistent with the Gonski vision and it is fundamentally fair. It is needs-based. It's fair, it's needs-based and it's consistent.

JOURNALIST:

Prime Minister, you've spoken about consistency and fairness – could you talk to us about how, nonetheless, there will be schools that will lose money and so, as such, there are losers from this action?

Well I'll ask, the Minister can enlarge on that but it is a very, very small number. But perhaps you can go into that Birmo?

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

Let's keep a sense of perspective here. There are 24 schools over the next couple of years who might face small reductions in funding, reductions of around one or two per cent. Reductions on a per student basis for some of those schools of \$1 or \$2 per student.

There are 9,000-plus schools that are going to face significant growth. Different rates of growth for those schools because they're all starting at different points under the disparate mess of arrangements that are in place from the previous government which we're proposing to clean up.

But ultimately, every school will be at the same point at the needs-based funding payment based on their individual school circumstances. And at the end of those 10 years, then every school will be indexed according to fair cost growth to ensure they keep up then with their fair share of funding under that consistent formula.

JOURNALIST:

But nonetheless, it is a break from the past that schools would not be worse off?

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

We are taking the difficult decision of cleaning up a system riddled with inconsistencies and ancient sweetheart deals and that means making some difficult decisions but by investing \$18.6 billion extra over the next 10 years, we have managed to make sure that we can fix the system while delivering strong growth in funding for more than 9,000 schools. Schools like this one – government primary school here in Sydney, with large numbers of students from language backgrounds other than English, that is going to see more than \$4 million in additional support to enable it to help its students succeed in the future.

JOURNALIST:

Will you release the names of those schools that are going to lose that funding?

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

We will have, over the next few days, available a public calculator that will enable anybody – a parent, a school leader or others – to go online and take a look at what our funding model means for each and every school.

But before we get to the point of releasing those details publicly, it is only fair and reasonable that we have time for my department to speak with those 24 schools to make sure they have time to speak with their school council and their parent community to make sure that they appreciate and understand how it will be implemented. As I said, the impact on them though is incredibly modest in most instances. Sometimes as little an impact as just \$1 or \$2 per student.

JOURNALIST:

Do you think it might be the Greens that get this funding package over the line for you?

PRIME MINISTER:

Look I'm not going to speculate on the Senate. Again I am often invited to do that and I have often been told that legislation won't get through the Senate and then we disappoint the press gallery by securing the support of the Senate.

We will just continue to work hard, and delivering. This is what we do, this is what my Government does – delivering the right policies for Australia. That is our commitment and we have had a lot of success working with the Senate. We respect the Senators, all of them and we will be seeking their support for this very fair and very important reform.

JOURNALIST:

Prime Minister, you have made a lot of Western Sydney focused announcements over the last few weeks. Some in the Victorian Government say you may be ignoring them, is that true?

PRIME MINISTER:

Yes, I have heard that criticism. That is absolutely untrue.

We are committed to strong investment and infrastructure in Victoria – 20 per cent of our national investment in road infrastructure is in Victoria.

You have, however, and again I don't want to spoil this beautiful discussion about education with a partisan note, but you do have to remember that the State Government, Labor Government in Victoria, has the distinction, if you

can call it that, of spending \$1.2 billion of taxpayers' money not building a road. I mean, a lot of governments spend that sort of money building a road. In Victoria they spent \$1.2 billion cancelling the East West Link – a vitally important piece of infrastructure.

Now, we are supporting important investments in infrastructure in Victoria – the freeway, Monash Freeway and others – but it is, you have to ask some questions – Victorians have to ask some very serious questions about the way in which their own state government is misdirecting their taxes in terms of infrastructure.

JOURNALIST:

Are you also abandoning the Cross River Rail project in Brisbane?

PRIME MINISTER:

As far as Cross River Rail – this is an important urban rail project that has been proposed by the Queensland Government – at this stage it is at an early stage. We have actually provided \$10 million towards a proper business case and analysis of the project so that the planning can be brought up to the right level.

It is vitally important when you develop these elements of urban infrastructure, whether it is a rail line, particularly with rail, to make sure you get the right outcomes in terms of urban amenity, in terms of development to ensure that wherever possible you can capture some of the increase in property values occasioned by the construction of the rail line to enable you to build it.

It is a complex business, it needs planning and it needs that work. We are committed to doing that and we are taking it one step at a time in a methodical, consistent way.

In terms of rail in Queensland, of course one of the first announcements I made as Prime Minister was commit to the next stage of the light rail on the Gold Coast.

We are putting in an enormous amount of resources into infrastructure in Queensland and I was just up there just earlier in the week of course talking about our investments in Townsville where we have a City Deal and we announced the appointment of the contractor to build the new stadium to which we're contributing \$100 million.

So right across the country, we are building, we are committed to developing the Infrastructure Australia needs to lead and succeed in the 21st century. Thank you all very much.

JOURNALIST:

What will be discussed in your meeting with President Trump?

PRIME MINISTER:

Well, thank you very much. Yes, we will have a lot of issues to discuss and in terms of, obviously in terms the national security issues, our Alliance is fundamental.

As you know, the visit is as part of the commemoration of the Battle of the Coral Sea, the 75th Anniversary of that great turning point in the Second World War where the United States Navy and the Royal Australian Navy together turned back a Japanese invasion force headed for Port Moresby. Which if it had got to Port Moresby and occupied Port Moresby, would have cut Australia off from our ally in the United States. It was a critical battle and a great example of the alliance and the first occasion Australian and American war ships operated together. American warships under the command of an Australian commander, Australian naval vessels under the overall command of an American admiral, so it followed on from that first occasion, 99 years ago in the First World War, where Australian and American troops fought side-by-side.

So we will be commemorating that, that great anniversary, that great victory, that great turning point but, above all, our great Alliance.

JOURNALIST:

North Korea will dominate the talks?

PRIME MINISTER:

Yes, of course we will be talking about North Korea and the Middle East and many other issues, economic as well.

Thank you very much indeed.

[ENDS]

[Interview with David Koch, Sunrise](#)

DAVID KOCH:

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull joins me now, good to see you.

PRIME MINISTER:

Good to see you, Kochie.

DAVID KOCH:

Sort of a little bit of smoke and mirrors here isn't it? You're giving back a bit of what you've already cut.

PRIME MINISTER:

No what we're doing is we're providing a substantial additional amount of funding. I mean Labor had –

DAVID KOCH:

From what you promised.

PRIME MINISTER:

Well yeah, from what we had previously.

You see what we're doing is we're actually fulfilling David Gonski's vision. David Gonski's big idea – which the Labor Party did not follow – was that every student, every school student in Australia, should be given Government funding to their school, based on their need and it should be consistent across the states and consistent across government and non-government schools.

Now that's what we're delivering.

And you saw, David Gonski was there with us yesterday – he's welcomed it, he's supported it.

DAVID KOCH:

But it's not as much as Gonski originally recommended though is it? It's less than that.

PRIME MINISTER:

No, hang on, no, that's not right. Gonski did not recommend a specific amount of money.

What the Labor Party did was they entered into 27 conflicting deals. So you had students in, a same student with the same needs in one state, would get less money than a student in another state.

They created a mishmash of conflicting deals.

That's why so many people have welcomed what we have come out with today, particularly the independent schools and primary school and state school organisations, parents organisations because they can see the clarity and the equity of what we are delivering.

DAVID KOCH:

Yep.

PRIME MINISTER:

We are delivering consistency and fairness right across the country.

DAVID KOCH:

The experts I talk to say 'less funding, but way better distributed.' So it is going to be a better playing field. But, yes, they may have done all these conflicting deals, but New South Wales for example, Rob Stokes, the Education Minister there, saying: 'I don't like your plan, I like the old Labor Party one, because I am going to get more!' He's talking about taking you to court over this!

PRIME MINISTER:

Well, let me just say this to you-

DAVID KOCH:

And he is a friendly government, a conservative.

PRIME MINISTER:

Look, let's be clear though, the Labor Party never had the money.

What they proposed, I mean Colin Barnett, who was the West Australian Premier at the time, called it out. He said at the time, it was obvious they didn't have the money. It was Monopoly money.

What we're proposing here, what we are setting out is fully funded and you are right, what you've been told is right – it is consistent, it is fair.

DAVID KOCH:

Yeah.

PRIME MINISTER:

This is Gonski the vision.

DAVID KOCH:

So rich schools are going to get less? Have you rung your old school Sydney Grammar and said: 'fellas, I'm going to cut your funding'?

(Laughter)

PRIME MINISTER:

No, just to be clear, there are only about 24 schools, it's estimated that actually receive less, and not a lot less-

DAVID KOCH:

And they are rich private schools, aren't they?

PRIME MINISTER:

Yes, that's right, independent, they're non-government schools. They will receive less per student, not a lot less, and the reason for that is that the

goal is to get everybody being treated equitably and consistently.

And because of the way Labor handled it, some schools were getting funding well ahead of others, some were behind.

DAVID KOCH:

Yep.

PRIME MINISTER:

It was all over the place.

Now under Labor's proposed plan – even with the supposed extra money, which was Monopoly money I might add – but even with that it would have taken 150 years to get the consistency and the fairness that Gonski proposed. So we're delivering that.

Now what David Gonski is doing, the Gonski 2.0 is not about funding, because we believe we've got the dollars right – and so does David. What the real question now is, how do we ensure that with all of that money, we get better schools, better teachers and better results?

DAVID KOCH:

And it's fairer.

PRIME MINISTER:

Yeah and that's the critical bit. We need to get better outcomes. We owe that to our kids.

DAVID KOCH:

Alright, a couple of quick ones. Victorians aren't too happy today – the *Herald Sun* is saying that you and Bill Shorten are favoring New South Wales over Victoria with new railways and new airports. Fair comment?

PRIME MINISTER:

No it's not fair. We are spending 20 per cent of our total budget on road funding in Victoria.

I mean the real problem in Victoria, Kochie, is the state government. Remember, they payed \$1.2 billion not to build the East West Link. They tore up that contract and blasted away over \$1 billion in compensation and costs for doing that.

DAVID KOCH:

Yep.

PRIME MINISTER:

We are putting real money into the Western Freeway. Real money into the M80 Ring Road, the western road there. And we are prepared to look at commitments to other big projects in Victoria. We're putting money into regional rail, into Murray Basin rail-

DAVID KOCH:

Okay – so you still love Victoria?

PRIME MINISTER:

We adore Victoria. Love Victoria.

DAVID KOCH:

Okay.

PRIME MINISTER:

Love Victoria. Marvelous Melbourne.

DAVID KOCH:

You love everyone, we know.

PRIME MINISTER:

I love trams.

(Laughter)

DAVID KOCH:

Give em' a big kiss

Alright. News Corp columnist Miranda Devine reckons you should appoint Tony Abbott Governor-General. What do you think of that? Fair idea? We've had former Prime Ministers as Governor General before and they've done alright.

PRIME MINISTER:

Is that right? Have we had former-

DAVID KOCH:

Bill?

PRIME MINISTER:

Well, Bill was a former Foreign Minister, but yeah, I don't think we have ever had a former Prime Minister. Well, you never speculate on Vice-Regal matters, but it just proves that Miranda Devine is as original and creative as ever.

DAVID KOCH:

So do you think it's got merit? It'd keep him quiet.

PRIME MINISTER:

Oh look, you can't, you never ever speculate or comment on vice regal matters, even if it's as fascinating a suggestion as Miranda has made.

DAVID KOCH:

Alright. You are off to New York to meet 'the Donald'.

PRIME MINISTER:

That's true.

DAVID KOCH:

You've got to be back for the budget next week, so it's a quick trip.

PRIME MINISTER:

It's a flying visit.

DAVID KOCH:

What are you going to talk to him about?

PRIME MINISTER:

We'll talk about the wide range of security and economic issues. But top of the list obviously at the moment is North Korea-

DAVID KOCH:

Yeah.

PRIME MINISTER:

And the situation in the Middle East.

DAVID KOCH:

Are you a bit nervous because the last phone call wasn't great? He was a bit grumpy with you.

PRIME MINISTER:

Oh, the reports were pretty exaggerated. It was a very frank, courteous and forthright call and I'm sure we'll get on very well-

DAVID KOCH:

But his team leaked it, didn't they?

PRIME MINISTER:

Oh I don't know. The so-called leak – which I said was inaccurate in many respects – was in *The Washington Post*.

DAVID KOCH:

Yeah but it was his people that leaked it?

PRIME MINISTER:

I don't know who leaked it.

DAVID KOCH:

Right. Will you take him a present? Sort of housewarming?

(Laughter)

PRIME MINISTER:

I am sure we will exchange courtesies. We don't need to be bringing big gifts, but we will have something to commemorate-

DAVID KOCH:

A tea towel or something like that?

PRIME MINISTER:

A mulga wood ashtray, perhaps? You see they're out of date nowadays – no-one smokes anymore.

(Laughter)

DAVID KOCH:

Alright, that's original. Well done Prime Minister.

(Laughter)

PRIME MINISTER:

But I'd just say this about the Coral Sea commemoration, which is what it's all about.

DAVID KOCH:

Yeah – it's really important.

PRIME MINISTER:

Can I just say this was the turning point in the Second World War. This was the first time the Japanese advance was reversed.

DAVID KOCH:

Yep.

PRIME MINISTER:

An invasion fleet headed to Port Moresby – which would have taken Port Moresby – was stopped and it was stopped by a combined effort of the Australian Navy and the US Navy, fighting together, side-by-side for the first time.

DAVID KOCH:

It was extraordinary. Amazing bit of history.

PRIME MINISTER:

A great moment in history 75 years ago.

DAVID KOCH:

Alright, enjoy the trip. Safe travels.

PRIME MINISTER:

We will. Thank you.

[ENDS]