



Statement: Australia's pledge to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), 2018-20
Friday 2 February 2018, GPE Financing Conference, Dakar, Senegal

Delivered in French by Australia's Ambassador to France, HE Mr Brendan Berne

I am delighted to represent Australia today as we reaffirm our collective commitment to unlocking quality education for all children. I thank President Sall and President Macron for their leadership on this critically important challenge.

I acknowledge in particular the many governments renewing their domestic financing pledges today. This commitment is the foundation for sustaining strong education systems into the future.

Australia has a strong record of investing in education, and consistently exceeds the spending target recommended.

We work closely with our neighbours in the Indo-Pacific region to ensure more children are in school and learning. We recognise that quality education underpins poverty reduction, accelerates economic growth, and supports peace and security.

Australia is proud to have been a strong supporter of the Global Partnership for Education for many years, contributing to its growth and ambition to scale up and deliver even further on equitable access to quality education.

Today Australia pledges an additional 90 million Australian dollars to GPE. This brings our long-term investment in GPE to half a billion dollars since 2011.

But achieving the 'learning generation' is going to take more than money. As highlighted by the Education Commission, we need bold new ideas, new understandings of how children learn, and far-reaching innovation.

Who could be better-placed to drive this step-change than GPE?

Harvesting the knowledge and innovation within the Partnership, and amplifying this through vibrant exchange with new actors, will be key to ensuring GPE realises its full potential.

Achieving more through working together is at the very heart of multilateralism.

Today's financing conference is just the first step in an exciting three years for GPE, as we work collectively to ensure all children are learning by 2030.