



MEDIA RELEASE

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Grimley Calls for Improved Internet in Regional Schools

Member for Western Victoria Stuart Grimley has once again spoken in Parliament about the inequalities of Public and Private secondary schools' internet speed and reliability.

Mr Grimley has stated that the more we move towards a digital curriculum, the more important it is to offer quality, reliable and fast internet which regional schools are currently not receiving.

Mr Grimley spoke in Parliament last week on a solution for the issue which was "staring politicians in the face". The solution is Aarnet - a third party internet provider, funded by Australian Universities and CSIRO with all profits injected back into state-of-the-art innovative infrastructure.

Aarnet is already being used in many independent/Catholic schools in Geelong including Sacred Heart College and Geelong College with great success and increased internet speeds.

In Mr Grimley's speech last week he spoke about a contract which may limit the ability for public schools to sign up with 3rd party telecommunications providers.

The Member for Western Victoria - whose electorate spans from the South Australian border to Horsham and down to Geelong and the Surf Coast - has argued we shouldn't be calling Victoria the "Education State" when we can't offer our public pupils the same internet as private schools.

There are schools on the Surf Coast which have seen enrolments double in a short number of years, yet the children are unable to stream content for their curriculum simultaneously due to bandwidth shortage.

NAPLAN (which went online this year) was also widely criticised last month with thousands of students across the country - especially in regional areas - having to re-sit the test due to issues with internet connections.

Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

"Whilst I welcome any effort to upgrade the bandwidth of internet in Regional Victoria, the internet in our education system needs an overhaul and I think Aarnet is the solution.

There is currently a local school with almost 1000 students yet only 150MB in bandwidth. They struggle to get a whole class watching a video, let alone the whole school using the internet simultaneously.

For too long, we have approached this issue with a half-baked attitude. It is about time we moved completely into the digital world by giving schools what they need."

Quotes also available from Parliamentary speeches in Hansard:

- [Constituency Question - 6 March 2019](#)
- [Adjournment Speech - 30 May 2019](#)