As Commonwealth Minister for Education Julia Gillard announced in a speech at the Sydney Institute last month, Commonwealth schools funding is to be reviewed. That review will rely heavily on data published on the My School website, using results gathered through National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy tests, as well as information on student intake and school location, with additional information on school income expected soon. Gillard promised she’d announce any new funding arrangements in 2011, before the beginning of the next funding agreement for the quadrennium 2013-16 and guaranteed that no school would be worse off as a result of the review. Labor’s election promise in 2007 was to maintain the controversial funding system of the previous Commonwealth government of John Howard for the current quadrennium. Now adding her now-worse-off guarantee, and a review ‘that is fully informed by the facts and the evidence,’ it’s clear Gillard wants to keep government and non-government schools happy. By coming clean on the purpose of the My School data, though, Gillard also appears to have sidelined the campaign by the Australian Education Union (AEU) against it. Her use of My School data to underpin the review of schools funding is now likely to make the AEU position untenable. As Gillard observed in her Sydney Institute speech, ‘Public education advocates believe that... every win for public education flows to non-government schools and public education can never make up ground.’ If Gillard’s funding review really does ‘look at the full range of student needs and the full range of ways in which schools are resourced, across all schools,’ could we be looking at a funding system that is actually fair?