

Media Release

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Independent Schools
Council of Australia

Independent Schools Support Funding Model Improvements

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) has welcomed statements from Education Minister, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP, that he will review the former Government's new school funding model in 2014.

ISCA Executive Director, Mr Bill Daniels, agrees that the new "Better Schools" funding model that is due to commence in January 2014 is facing serious implementation difficulties for independent schools.

"ISCA supports the focus of school funding being based on student need and also supports greater resources being available to these students. However the new funding model lacks transparency, is too complicated and is based on data that is unreliable and of poor quality", Mr Daniels said.

"I agree with Minister Pyne that there is certainly not a nationally consistent funding model in place. Rather there are a number of different deals negotiated in various jurisdictions, some signed, some not and very few the same", he said.

ISCA has consistently argued that this model would be difficult to implement, and has been working with the Department of Education to reduce the potential impact of funding changes at the individual independent school level. Mr Daniels said that unrealistic expectations have been created about funding levels and the slow phase-in of the proposed increases in funding were not going to deliver real funding benefits until at least 2018.

"Independent schools need funding certainty and a stable and predictable model that allows them to deliver educational outcomes that meet community expectations year after year", Mr Daniels said. Independent schools highly value their direct funding relationship with the Commonwealth as it provides security and continuity, especially for disadvantaged students.

"ISCA acknowledges that the current Government has reaffirmed its commitment to maintain the forecast "funding envelope" for schools. However, we will be seeking from Minister Pyne a similar guarantee to that received from the Gillard Government; that no school will be worse off in real terms from any proposed changes to funding calculations", he said.

"We look forward to working directly with Minister Pyne to achieve a sustainable and less complicated funding structure", Mr Daniels said.

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