

Media Release

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Independent Schools
Council of Australia

Independent sector stresses need for accurate analysis of school funding

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) has today stressed the importance of informed and accurate analysis of the issues surrounding school funding.

Recent analysis of school funding trends ignores the different roles played by the Commonwealth Government and state and territory governments in funding school education, and this difference is critical to understanding how Australian schools are funded.

The majority of public recurrent funding for government schools, close to 90%, is provided by state and territory governments, with just over 10% provided by the Commonwealth Government. The opposite is true for non-government schools, with the majority of public funding provided by the Commonwealth Government.

ISCA Executive Director Colette Colman said that, "Analysis that compares funding between government and non-government schools without looking at the full Commonwealth Government, *and* state and territory government, funding picture is meaningless and potentially misleading."

Ms Colman added that, "funding of Independent schools is a partnership between parents, school communities, the Commonwealth Government and state and territory governments. The major funder of Independent schools are parents and school communities which provide almost 60% of the income for Independent schools."

In terms of capital funding, in Independent schools 86% comes from parents and school communities, with only 14% coming from governments.

The Independent school sector supports a needs-based approach to school funding. The Independent sector has seen significant increases in the numbers of students with special educational needs over the past decade, with numbers of students with disability and Indigenous students growing much faster than overall enrolment growth. This increase in special needs students, relative to overall enrolment growth will also be reflected in the increase in public funding to Independent schools.

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