

# Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Independent Schools  
Council of Australia

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## Australian Education Bill 2012

ISCA welcomes the introduction of the Australian Education Bill 2012. This Bill represents a first step in the Australian Government's aspirational goal to reshape the funding arrangements for Australian schools with a view to providing an excellent education for all students.

While ISCA appreciates the complexity of the task, many of the 1,100 independent school communities have genuine concerns about the continuing uncertainty of future funding arrangements. Considerable time has passed since the release of the Gonski Review of Funding for Schooling and current Australian Government funding arrangements for independent schools expire at the end of 2013.

ISCA encourages the Government to quickly finalise the details of the funding arrangements with state and territory governments and with the independent and Catholic sectors, and to incorporate them into the Australian Education Bill as soon as possible. This is the only way to provide school communities with an assurance that there will be stable, fair, robust and transparent public funding of independent schools from the commencement of 2014.

Non-government school parents currently provide more than \$8 billion dollars per annum towards the cost of their children's schooling. These generous contributions to the community cost of education need to be acknowledged and supported by all levels of government.

The legislation requires a commitment by schools to implement the National Plan for School Improvement as a prerequisite for Australian Government funding. However, for individual independent schools, the costs of these improvements must be recognised in any future funding arrangements. This is a necessary pre-condition for schools to continue to provide high quality education and to meet the aspirations encapsulated in the Bill.

ENDS

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