Media Release

2 December, 2013

Independent Schools Welcome Funding Announcements

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) welcomes the joint announcement today by the Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP and the Minister for Education, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP on school funding.

ISCA Executive Director, Mr Bill Daniels, said the funding announced for state and territory Associations of Independent Schools (AISs) confirms the Government’s commitment to honouring arrangements made with the previous government.

“This provides funding certainty for AISs and will allow them to assist the 1,100 independent schools in Australia to implement the Australian Education Act 2013.”

The 560,000 students attending independent schools can now proceed with confidence in 2014 to access the expertise and assistance provided to independent schools by AISs. This expertise will support independent schools to maximise student learning outcomes and effectively address educational disadvantage.”

The Government’s re-commitment in this announcement to reducing unnecessary red-tape and regulation of schools will also be well received by the independent schools sector. Flexibility and autonomy are core features of the high quality education offered by schools in the independent sector and are particularly important for schools serving students with high level needs, such as indigenous community schools and special needs schools.

“ISCA looks forward to working closely with the Government to support the development of new funding arrangements”, Mr Daniels said.

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