

Media Release

28 January 2016



Independent Schools
Council of Australia

Labor's Commitment to School Funding Certainty Welcome

Today's announcement by Opposition Leader, the Hon Bill Shorten MP and Shadow Minister for Education, the Hon Kate Ellis MP that Labor will commit to continuing Commonwealth school funding growth towards the full implementation of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) funding model is welcomed by the Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA).

ISCA Executive Director, Ms Colette Colman said that "the Commonwealth Government is a significant funding partner for Independent schools, along with state and territory governments and parents and school communities. Stability and predictability in Commonwealth Government funding support for Independent schools past 2017 is essential to allow schools to plan and deliver their education programs to students consistently and ensure the ongoing provision of quality schooling."

"Maintaining the value of Commonwealth funding support through appropriate levels of indexation is also critical for Independent schools. Continual improvement in education programs, compliance costs for increasing government regulation and movements in salaries and conditions for staff all contribute to the rising cost of schooling", she said.

"To avoid any decrease in the quality of education offered by schools it is important that public funding for students keeps pace with increased costs through annual indexation of grants based on a specific schools index," Ms Colman said.

"ISCA also welcomes the commitment for additional interim funding support for students with disability. Students with disabilities should receive funding to ensure their educational needs are met no matter which school they attend," she said.

Independent schools support education funding on a needs basis so that every child has an opportunity to receive the educational support and attention they require.

ENDS

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