

Media Release

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Independent Schools
Council of Australia

Commonwealth Commitment to Real Funding Growth Welcomed

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) has today welcomed the Commonwealth Government's decision to link the growth in Commonwealth funding for schools to a measure which reflects real increases in the costs of school education. This decision is expected to contribute an additional \$1.2 billion to schools over the three years from 2018-2020.

According to ISCA Executive Director, Ms Colette Colman, "this decision will help maintain the real value of Commonwealth funding to Independent schools which is critical to ensuring the ongoing affordability and sustainability of Independent schools".

"Independent schools are funded through a partnership between parents and school communities, the Commonwealth Government and state and territory governments. The Commonwealth Government is a significant funding partner, particularly for medium and low fee Independent schools, which make up the vast majority of the Independent sector", Ms Colman said.

"Independent schools are keen to work with the Government to ensure that the resources directed to school education are utilised efficiently and effectively to maximise student learning outcomes, both for high performing schools and students and schools serving communities with large numbers of educationally disadvantaged students", she said.

"To this end, the sector will be looking at the Government's student achievement plan, to ascertain how Independent schools can best be supported to implement these proposals, including the role of state and territory Associations of Independent Schools in assisting schools with strategies and interventions that maximise impact on student outcomes", Ms Colman said.

"ISCA also welcomes the additional funding of \$118.2 million to support students with disability for 2016 and 2017. The number of educationally disadvantaged students in Independent schools has been increasing at a much higher rate than overall enrolment growth in Independent schools for many decades. The number of students with disabilities in Independent schools has been increasing annually at around 8 per cent and Indigenous students at around 6 per cent", she said.

Ms Colman said that "while this additional funding for 2016 and 2017 is welcomed, Independent schools are looking forward to working with the Government to ensure that the Commonwealth's funding partnership with Independent school parents continues to address the increasing needs of educationally disadvantaged students in Independent schools".

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