

Key principles which underpin the Independent sector's policy position on school funding.

Increases to Commonwealth Government funding for government schools must not be funded by reductions in funding to non-government schools

- The funding of government schools is primarily a state and territory government responsibility.
- Any shift in funding responsibilities between the Commonwealth and state/territory governments would be a significant change in longstanding Federal relations and responsibilities.
- Changing the share of funding going to each sector without recognising need exists in all sectors would undermine needs-based funding.

The impact of any changes to the funding model must be considered at the individual Independent school level

- The SRS funding model only directly applies to the around 900 non-systemic Independent schools.
- The Catholic and government school systems redistribute funding within their systems and between schools, lessening the impact of any changes to the funding model.
- As any changes to funding arrangements will have a direct impact on individual Independent schools, those changes must be considered on a case-by-case basis to assess how they will affect individual schools and their students.

The funding model must apply consistently across the non-government sector

- The Independent and Catholic school sectors have very similar socio-economic status (SES) profiles and serve similar communities.
- The lowest SES non-government schools in Australia are mostly Independent schools serving extremely disadvantaged communities.
- There is no justification for any change to the funding model which would differentiate between the Independent and Catholic sectors.

Transition arrangements must take into account the particular circumstances of individual Independent schools

- Predictable and stable public funding is essential for Independent schools' long term financial planning and successful educational outcomes.
- Any changes to school funding must include transition arrangements which take into account the diversity of the Independent sector and recognise the particular circumstances of each Independent school.
- Changes to funding should not undermine the financial viability of individual Independent schools.