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.