

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
30 March 2017



Independent Schools write to members of parliament over funding concerns

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) has written a [letter to all members of the Australian Parliament](#) to express concerns about the prospect of sudden and untimely changes to Australian Government funding arrangements for schools.

ISCA Executive Director Colette Colman said today that, "Australia's 1,100 Independent schools are extremely concerned about the current uncertainty around funding, which makes planning with confidence from next year extremely difficult."

While on average, the majority of funding for Independent schools comes from parents, the Australian Government is the major public funder of Independent schools. This Australian Government funding makes an important and valued contribution to the ongoing affordability and financial viability of Independent schools.

Ms Colman said that, "Independent schools believe it is critical that all Federal members and senators have an accurate understanding of the nature of Independent schools and the significant contribution they make to the educational, economic and social well-being of Australia."

"With no system support to fall back on, sudden funding changes next year could result in unanticipated fee increases that many families and school communities will not be able to manage. We appreciate governments need to make fiscal decisions in the context of the broader budget and economy. However, given the lengthy lead times required for financial planning in schools, it is vital that they be given sufficient warning of any proposed changes."

ISCA's letter to all members of the Australian Parliament can be found at:
<http://isca.edu.au/mpletter0317>

ENDS

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