

Media Statement

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Transition support funding is well established, hardly a secret

Reports in today's media of secretive funding for Independent schools are false. Australian Governments on both sides of politics have always provided support for schools to adjust to changed funding arrangements when those changes involve funding reductions.

The changes to Australian Government funding from 2018 are no different. When these changes were announced it was also announced there would be transitional support. Schools in all sectors; government, Catholic and Independent; are receiving assistance to transition to the new funding arrangements. In 2018, \$36.7 million is being provided to Catholic systemic schools, \$3.6 million to Independent systemic schools and \$7.1 million to stand-alone Independent schools to assist with transition.

The Independent Schools Council of Australia understands that this transitional funding applies to only a small number of Independent schools and is for one year only. All Independent schools will transition to their allocated funding levels.

For stand-alone Independent schools which do not have access to support from large school systems, any changes to Australian Government funding can have a significant impact on school finances, and school communities need time to adjust to funding changes, particularly if there is a requirement to increase fees over and above regular cost increases. Parents enrol students in an Independent school with a knowledge of their capacity to pay fees. If there is an unexpected change in those fees, school communities need time to adjust.

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