

# Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Independent Schools  
Council of Australia

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## STUDENT WITH DISABILITY FUNDING FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS A “LOADING” IN NAME ONLY

The Executive Director of the Independent Schools Council of Australia, Mr Bill Daniels, has stated that the article in *The Australian* today cites funding data for Independent schools out of context and in a grossly inaccurate and misleading way.

“Claiming that some Independent schools are receiving additional funding from government of up to \$43,036 per student is nonsense” Mr Daniels said.

“There are no Independent schools in Australia receiving anything close to the figures cited for students with disability. The figures are simply a technical distortion in the way the funding model data is presented.”

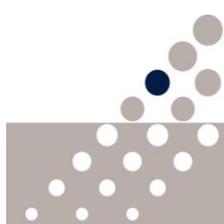
“The Schooling Resource Standard (SRS), also known as the Gonski funding model of school funding, was introduced by the Australian Government in 2014. The vast majority of Independent schools are, however, not actually funded according to the SRS funding model but are “transitioning” to their funding entitlement under the model. This means for some schools their funding is increasing over time and for others their funding reduces over time.”

Mr Daniels advised that “Of the 1,100 Independent schools, only around 50 Independent schools are currently being funded according to the SRS funding model and **these are the only Independent schools that are actually receiving any loadings**. Schools in transition to the model continue to be effectively funded under the previous funding arrangements until their transition is complete.”

“The article draws on information provided by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training in a response to a Senate question. The Department presents funding for schools as if the new funding arrangements were already in place for all schools. To do this the Department **artificially attributes base funding and loadings to schools** in transition, despite these schools effectively still being funded according to the previous funding model and not actually receiving loadings.”

“This presentation of a school’s funding entitlement distorts the value of the various “loadings” depending on whether the school’s funding is increasing or reducing over time and how large a transition a school needs to make.”

The figures presented in *The Australian* article today all relate to schools that are transitioning to the model and are therefore still funded according to the previous funding arrangements and are not receiving any loadings.





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“The harsh reality is that Independent schools that are currently receiving reductions in Australian Government funding over time will **receive no additional government funding when they enrol a new student with disability** until their transition is completed, Mr Daniels said.

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