

Media Release

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Independent Schools
Council of Australia

Independent Schools Council welcomes agreement on Better Schools

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) welcomes agreement reached today with the Australian Government that will see additional funding flow to independent schools over the next six years.

ISCA acknowledges the open and consultative approach from Prime Minister the Hon Kevin Rudd and Minister for Education the Hon Bill Shorten and their continuing commitment to the independent schools sector.

ISCA Executive Director, Mr Bill Daniels said that “Considerable progress has been made in the last two weeks with the Minister, and his willingness to address the independent sector’s concerns has been appreciated.”

“ISCA can now say that independent schools should see government funding based on student disadvantage increase over the next six years as a result of the new school funding formulae”, Mr Daniels said. “The commitment from former Prime Minister Gillard that no school will be worse off compared to their 2013 Government funding has been built into the calculations of the new funding model,” he said.

All Australian Government payments to individual independent schools are now covered by the Australian Education Act and payments will flow automatically based on the funding model it contains.

“ISCA has always been concerned with the impact of the new funding model at the individual school level and to its credit, the Government has acknowledged these concerns and constructively worked with the sector to seek solutions,” Mr Daniels said.

“These issues have now been resolved as a result of recent discussions with new Education Minister Shorten,” he said.

The Government has also agreed to provide additional financial support to the independent sector to help implement the important reform areas. “This will ensure that vital school level support services in states and territories, built up over many years, will continue to be available under the new funding model to all independent schools,” Mr Daniels said.

ISCA has now been given access to the latest funding model which will allow funding calculations for all independent schools for 2014 to be prepared. “This will provide certainty to schools regarding their 2014 government funding calculations,” Mr Daniels said. “The only uncertainties remain around the final details of negotiations with jurisdictions that have yet to sign an agreement with the Australian

Government. Independent schools will only receive the maximum benefits from the model if all states and territories sign agreements.

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Contact: Barry Wallett
0411 278612
barry.wallett@isca.edu.au