

Media Release

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Independent Schools
Council of Australia

Independent schools value direct Commonwealth funding relationship

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) has welcomed Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's recognition of the importance of the ongoing direct funding relationship between the non-government school sector and the Commonwealth Government.

ISCA Executive Director Colette Colman said that, "the Independent school sector values its long term collaborative relationship with the Commonwealth Government. Mr Turnbull's comments on ABC radio today reflect our sector's concerns that state and territory governments would face competing interests if they became the majority funders of government and non-government schools, while both sectors were competing for enrolments from the same pool of potential students.

ISCA figures show that under the current model an average of 33 per-cent of recurrent funding for Independent schools comes from the Commonwealth Government, 11 per-cent from state and territory governments, and the remaining 56 per-cent from parents and communities. Each state and territory uses a different formula for providing its own funding for non-government schools.

Ms Colman went on to say that, "the Independent sector believes it would be inappropriate for state and territory governments to be given responsibility for the majority of non-government school funding. The primary interest of state and territory governments is to ensure the ongoing operation and viability of government schools in their jurisdiction."

With the future of Australian school funding due to be under discussion this week by Australia's heads-of-governments, Ms Colman said that ISCA remained committed to working with the Commonwealth to ensure appropriateness and certainty around future funding arrangements.

ENDS

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