

Media Release

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Independent Schools
Council of Australia

Money starts to flow for students with disabilities

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) has welcomed the announcement by the Parliamentary Secretary for School Education and Workplace Relations, Senator the Hon Jacinta Collins, that funding will start to flow to the independent school sector to support the many students with disabilities currently being educated in independent schools.

“This additional funding has been on the drawing board since May last year and it was pleasing to see that agreements have been reached to ensure that additional services can be provided to schools to help improve the educational environment for these students,” says Mr Bill Daniels, Executive Director of ISCA.

“It is expected that an additional \$11.9 million in funding will be available under the *More Support for Students with Disabilities* (MSSD) initiatives to support the more than 12,000 students with disabilities enrolled in independent schools.”

“The additional funding provided under the MSSD program will enhance the capacity for independent schools to support these students with disabilities. Assisting schools to effectively address the educational needs of students with disabilities is a key element in maximising the opportunities and outcomes for these students”, Mr Daniels said.

“Students with disabilities in independent schools have been disadvantaged by a lack of specific funding to support high need students,” says Mr Daniels, “and with enrolments increasing each year, the need for greater Government support is also increasing to ensure that schools and teachers are best equipped to support these students.”

“The recently released Gonski Review of Funding for Schooling highlighted a funding shortfall for students with disabilities and has recommended increasing the support for these students across all school sectors.”

“ISCA looks forward to working with the Government to develop the definitions and programs that would be necessary to implement the students with disabilities recommendations of Mr Gonski’s Review Panel”, Mr Daniels said.

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