

Transition to new school funding model critical

Friday 23 June 2017

The Association of Independent Schools of the ACT (AISACT) congratulates the Government, Federal Minister for Education, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham and crossbench Senators on the successful passage of the *Australian Education Amendment Bill 2017*.

AISACT Executive Director Andrew Wrigley acknowledged that the legislation presents a funding model which will implement a needs-based and sector-blind approach to school funding from the Commonwealth.

AISACT also notes that those schools which are currently not receiving additional funding for students with disability, nearly half of ACT Independent schools, will now do so.

“This is to be congratulated,” said Mr Wrigley.

In further commenting on the legislation, Mr Wrigley said “Moving the transition rate from ten years to six years will be welcome news for 50 percent of ACT Independent schools.”

“At the same time, transition arrangements are critical for the rest of the ACT Independent schools, who are set to receive less funding. The inevitable impact on those schools and their communities is an important consideration as we work with the Government on implementing this model.”

AISACT acknowledges the work of Senator the Hon Zed Seselja, Liberal Senator for the ACT, in his negotiation towards a package for non-government schools in the ACT to assist with transition to the new funding model.

“Senator Seselja’s work in negotiating additional funding to assist non-government schools in the ACT to transition to the new model is to be commended.”

“AISACT and individual Member Schools have not questioned the integrity of the new model. At the same time, half of the schools will expect to receive reduced funding under the new model.”



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“These are not ‘elite schools’. These are schools that work incredibly hard to deliver educational excellence to their students, with the support of their communities. The negotiated package will help school communities transition to the new funding model.”

AISACT further welcomes the review of the socio-economic status (SES) of school communities.

“With a school’s SES score being such a crucial component in determining funding, the proposed review will provide the opportunity to interrogate whether or not this is the most appropriate method to determine a school community’s ‘capacity to contribute’,” said Mr Wrigley.

For further information please contact

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