

# Choice and Affordability Fund

2023 Annual Report - Association of Independent  
Schools of the ACT Inc.



## NGRB Ongoing Compliance Declaration

Section 92 of the *Australian Education Act 2013* (the Act) outlines the basic requirements for approval of a non-government representative body for a non-government school.

As such, the Department of Education is seeking confirmation that The Association of Independent Schools of the ACT Inc. complies with the legislative requirements in relation to monitoring the body's compliance with the Act.

### Confirmation you continue to meet basic requirements for approval

#### Body corporate

*Association Of Independent Schools Of The Act Inc*

*ABN:51 980 437 786*

#### Not-for-profit (NFP)

*Association Of Independent Schools Of The Act Inc*

*ABN:51 980 437 786*

*is a registered charity with the ACNC.*

#### Financial viability

***Nexia Dewsbury's (Audit) provided a 2023 Audit report to the Committee of the AISACT and one of the key comments stated "The working capital ratio indicates that the association remains in a strong financial position.***

#### Fit and proper person

***The AISACT staff although very small in number have the relevant skills and knowledge and experience to support non-government schools in the ACT. All staff have a current ACT WWVP card. The current Executive Director has been in the role for over 14 years, supporting Member schools and administering Government programs.***

## NGRB Annual Report Sign Off

This annual report is submitted in fulfillment of the annual report requirements in sections 50, 51 and 52 of the CAF Guidelines.

**Name and Position of the person  
signing off on behalf of the NGRB:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AWR', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Andrew Wrigley

Executive Director, AISACT

**Date:** 21 June 2024

## Summary of 2023

The activities proposed under the Choice and Affordability Fund are necessary to, and complimentary of, support for ACT Independent schools addressing the national priorities. The 2023 work plan was developed in consultation with the AISACT Executive Committee and communicated to all Member schools. Following extensive deliberation and consultation, the AISACT Executive Committee determined the parameters by which the funding would be distributed to schools across the National Priorities.

Projects and activities include both distributed funds provided directly to schools and centralised programs designed to best support schools. Under NP(a), *Choice and Affordability of schools*, grant funding was offered to all schools in support of their work in facilitating parental choice of schools in the independent sector in the ACT. *Transition Assistance* (NP(b)) priority funds were targeted to those schools that are negatively impacted by the shift to the Direct Measure of Income (DMI), as well as support for schools in general to transition to the new funding model.

Distributed funds were available to schools through specific grant programs under *the Strengthening Outcomes for Schools and Educationally Disadvantaged Schools and Students* (NP(d)), and *Student Wellbeing and Support* (NP(e)) priorities. Targeted Professional Learning opportunities were also offered to support schools address these priorities.

*Special Circumstance Funding* (NP(c)) was available through direct grants for all schools who apply and meet the specific criteria to address unforeseen events and short-term emergency assistance.

## Risk Management

| Risk  | How the risk will be managed   |
|---|--|
| Schools not acquitting the funds for the purpose for which they are intended. | Schools will be required to provide an annual statement of intent for the use of funds received.<br><br>The Choice and Affordability agreement and National Priorities will be a standing item on AISACT General Meetings (all Member schools attend, four times per year) |

## Activity Report

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Activity/Initiative</b> | <b>Name</b>  |
| Priority                   | A – Choice and Affordability<br>Facilitating Parental Choice |

### Activity Description

AISACT distributed funds under this priority to all eligible Member school. This priority provided funding for initiatives that facilitate parental choice and opportunity giving parents the ability to choose an affordable school that suits their child. The allocation each year to schools was based on a school’s enrolments and DMI. The allocation amount calculated is based on a formula agreed by all Members. Schools received correspondence outlining the predicted funding amount they could expect in the years 2022-2025. Schools were required to indicate how the allocated funds will contribute to the school’s plans under this priority. Schools provided a clear statement which captures how they will promote the school as a choice for parents. Forward planning is assisted through the early identification of the proposed funding levels.

### Outcomes Achieved

| Outcomes   | Indicators of success  |
|--|--|
| Increased affordability of participating schools through planned use of the funds. Increased awareness of the suitability of a school by potential families. | Increased affordability of participating schools through planned use of the funds. Increased awareness of the suitability of a school by potential families. |

### Activity Expenditure

|                    | Centralised<br>(Reporting Year Only) | Distributed<br>(Reporting Year Only) |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Expenditure</b> | \$0                                  | \$135,493                            |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Activity/Initiative</b><br>Priority | <b>Name</b>   |
|  | B – Transition Assistance<br>Negative growth Assistance |

### Activity Description

Financial and transition support will be provided to the school which would meet the criteria to have access to support through the National Adjustment Assistance Fund (NAAF); that is, schools which will experience reductions in per student funding. Only one AISACT Member school is captured under this criterion. This school will receive direct grants each year.

### Outcomes Achieved

| Outcomes  | Indicators of success   |
|---|---|
| Assist the eligible school in transitioning to the new funding model. | The school notes on how the funding contributed to their transition planning through an annual statement. |

### Activity Expenditure

|                    | Centralised<br>(Reporting Year Only) | Distributed<br>(Reporting Year Only) |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Expenditure</b> | \$0                                  | \$72,263                             |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Activity/Initiative</b><br>Priority | <b>Name</b><br>B – Transition Assistance<br>Transition Assistance |
|--|---|

### Activity Description

Financial and transition support will be provided to those schools which would meet the criteria determined by the AISACT Executive Committee. The AISACT Executive Committee determined that schools with an annual indexation rate below two per cent as indicated in the Commonwealth funding model (irrespective of enrolments) would be eligible to receive a direct grant under this Priority. Two Member schools are eligible for funding under the criteria determined by the Executive Committee.

### Outcomes Achieved

| Outcomes   | Indicators of success   |
|--|---|
| Assist eligible schools in transitioning to the new funding model. | The schools note on how the funding contributed to their transition planning through an annual statement. |

### Activity Expenditure

|                    | Centralised<br>(Reporting Year Only) | Distributed<br>(Reporting Year Only) |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Expenditure</b> | \$0                                  | \$72,263                             |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Activity/Initiative</b><br>Priority | <b>Name</b><br>C – Special Circumstances Funding |
|--|--|

### Activity Description

Special Circumstance Funding is available to schools to apply if they are impacted by a special circumstance, as outlined in the Guidelines. The nature of support to a school experiencing special circumstances will vary by the type of circumstance. As a contingency, \$100,000 will be available each year to provide assistance if required. In 2023 AISACT received no requests for this funding.

### Outcomes Achieved

| Outcomes   | Indicators of success  |
|--|--|
| Any school assisted will be able to address the impact of the identified issue | Schools which access this funding are able to continue operating with little interruption. |

### Activity Expenditure

|                    | Centralised<br>(Reporting Year Only) | Distributed<br>(Reporting Year Only) |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Expenditure</b> | \$0                                  | \$0                                  |



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Activity/Initiative</b><br>Priority | <b>Name</b><br>D – Strengthening outcomes for schools and educationally disadvantaged schools and students<br>Strengthening School Outcomes - Grants |
|--|--|

## Activity Description

This grant will support initiatives that strengthen outcomes for schools. Selected Member schools received grants of \$20,000. There were five grants provided in 2023. These direct grants supported programs/projects/initiatives/resources specific to a school which supports the focus of this Priority. Over the time of this workplan, it is anticipated that all Member schools would benefit from these direct grants.

## Outcomes Achieved

| Outcomes  | Indicators of success  |
|---|--|
| Schools will deliver programs/projects/initiatives/resources bespoke to their needs and articulated in their application which support strengthening outcomes for students. | <p>The schools report on how this grant contributed to meeting the stated outcome.</p> <p>School Names 2023:<br/> Emmaus Christian School<br/> St Edmunds College<br/> Orana Steiner School<br/> Canberra Grammar School<br/> Covenant Christian School</p> <p>In 2023, recipient schools made presentations on their initiative at the AISACT Annual Celebrating Teaching &amp; Learning event.</p> |

## Activity Expenditure

|                    | Centralised<br>(Reporting Year Only) | Distributed<br>(Reporting Year Only) |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Expenditure</b> | \$0                                  | \$100,000                            |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Activity/Initiative</b><br>Priority | <b>Name</b><br>D – Strengthening outcomes for schools and educationally disadvantaged schools and students<br>Strengthening School Outcomes - Professional Learning |
|--|---|

### Activity Description

Due to the continuation of the Reform Support Fund in 2023, AISACT did not need to provide the additional professional learning as forecast and therefore the funds will be rolled over to support programs in following years. In addition, \$30,000 was allocated to contribute to AISACT staffing for the provision of specialised support to schools delivering grant programs/projects/initiatives/resources.

### Outcomes Achieved

| Outcomes  | Indicators of success   |
|---|---|
| Teachers will develop deeper understanding of the contemporary skills and practices applicable to each focus area | Staff from 80% of Member schools participate in the suite of programs. Teachers will make presentations on their learnings and implementation at the AISACT Annual Celebrating Teaching & Learning event. |

### Activity Expenditure

|                    | Centralised<br>(Reporting Year Only) | Distributed<br>(Reporting Year Only) |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Expenditure</b> | \$30,000                             | \$0                                  |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Activity/Initiative</b><br>Priority | <b>Name</b><br>E – Student wellbeing and support<br>Supporting Students - Grants |
|--|--|

## Activity Description

These grants supported initiatives that strengthen outcomes for schools. Member schools were provided grants of \$15,000. Seven grants (usually five per year) were distributed in 2023 due to the shortfall in school uptake from the previous year. These direct grants supported programs/projects/initiatives/resources specific to a school. Over the time of this workplan, it is anticipated that all Member schools would benefit from these direct grants.

## Outcomes Achieved

| Outcomes  | Indicators of success   |
|---|---|
| Schools will deliver a range of programs/projects/initiatives/resources bespoke to their needs and articulated in their application which support student wellbeing and ensure safe, supportive and respectful learning environments. | <p>AISACT provided seven grants in 2023.</p> <p>School Names:<br/> Emmaus Christian School<br/> St Edmunds College<br/> Orana Steiner School<br/> Canberra Grammar School<br/> Covenant Christian School<br/> Burgmann Anglican School<br/> Trinity Christian College</p> <p>The recipient schools reported on how this grant contributed to meeting the stated outcome. Schools made presentations on their initiative at the AISACT Annual Celebrating Teaching &amp; Learning event.</p> |

## Activity Expenditure

|                    | Centralised<br>(Reporting Year Only) | Distributed<br>(Reporting Year Only) |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Expenditure</b> | \$0                                  | \$105,000                            |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Activity/Initiative</b><br>Priority | <b>Name</b><br>E – Student wellbeing and support<br>Strengthening School Outcomes – Professional Learning |
|--|---|

### Activity Description

Due to the continuation of the Reform Support Fund in 2023, AISACT did not need to provide the additional professional learning as forecast and therefore the funds will be rolled over to support programs in following years. In addition, \$30,000 was allocated to contribute to AISACT staffing for the provision of specialised support to schools delivering grant programs/projects/initiatives/resources.

### Outcomes Achieved

| Outcomes  | Indicators of success   |
|---|---|
| Teachers will develop deeper understanding of the contemporary skills and practices applicable to each focus area | Staff from 80% of Member schools participate in the suite of programs. Teachers will make presentations on their learnings and implementation at the AISACT Annual Celebrating Teaching & Learning event. |

### Activity Expenditure

|                    | Centralised<br>(Reporting Year Only) | Distributed<br>(Reporting Year Only) |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Expenditure</b> | \$30,000                             | \$0                                  |