

Media Release

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Independent Schools
Council of Australia

Greens “Hit list” Schools Funding Policy Fails Education Outcomes

Senator Bob Brown yesterday confirmed that the Australian Greens intend to implement a schools funding “hit list”.

Senator Brown’s comments yesterday to the National Press Club confirm that the Australian Greens intend to remove funding from non-government schools which would have a devastating impact on the financial viability of independent schools in Australia.

Executive Director of the Independent Schools Council of Australia, Mr Bill Daniels criticised the Australian Greens Party’s negative approach to non-government schools.

“Unfortunately the Australian Greens have adopted a policy that will undermine the choice families have made to educate their children at a non-government school within their religious faith or educational philosophy,” said Mr Daniels.

“The Greens’ policy is a relic from the politics of class warfare. It is irrelevant to a modern social and economic environment that emphasises providing educational opportunities for all school students.”

“With one in three students attending a non-government school, the Australian Greens’ policy will not improve the educational outcomes of these 1.2 million students.”

“Government funding arrangements should recognise and encourage the significant financial investment parents make in their children’s education at independent schools through the payment of school fees, fundraising and donations. The Greens’ policy will simply penalise parental schooling choice and investment,” said Mr Daniels.

Mr Daniels also noted the contradictory approach that the Australian Greens have adopted in announcing its schooling policy.

“We now know that Senator Brown’s comments made earlier in the campaign that the Australian Greens would not remove funding from non-government schools to be completely false,” said Mr Daniels.

“It is disappointing that the Australian Greens Party has been inconsistent on this issue particularly as it stands to gain the balance of power in the Senate and could use its influence to bring about regressive policies that are detrimental to independent schools,” said Mr Daniels.

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