

# Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

6 August 2010



Independent Schools  
Council of Australia

---

## Greens Need to Clarify Non-Government Schools Funding Policy

The Australian Greens Party needs to clarify its policy in relation to non-government school funding arrangements as a matter of urgency.

Reported statements by Leader Senator Bob Brown that the Australian Greens will not take funding from non-government schools contradict the Greens' policy document hosted on its website.

The Greens' policy document states that it would:

- end the current non-government school funding arrangements by the end of 2010,
- end funding of the 'very wealthiest private schools',
- return the total level of funding for all non-government schools to the 2003-04 levels
  - *as an example, this means a school with an SES ranking of 107 would receive \$2,574 per primary student and \$3,409 per secondary student (indexed) instead of \$3,562 and \$4,525 respectively – around \$1,000 less per student than current rates, and*
- restrict the development of 'new private schools'.

Executive Director of Independent Schools Council of Australia, Mr Bill Daniels said that there is considerable confusion and uncertainty over the Australian Greens' policy in relation to non-government school funding.

"There is a significant disconnect between what Senator Brown is saying in relation to schools funding and what is detailed in the Australian Greens' policy documentation," said Mr Daniels.

"If the Greens' policy, as stated on its website, is applied it would have a devastating impact on the financial viability of many independent schools across Australia, especially those located in the outer suburbs and regional centres."

"Other sections of the policy undermine the choice families have made to educate their children at a non-government school within their religious faith or educational philosophy."

"At this stage of the election campaign, we know where the major parties stand in relation to schools policies. However, we do not know where the Australian Greens' stand given the contradictions between what Senator Brown is saying and what is outlined in official party policy documentation."

"This confusion is a significant concern for independent schools, given the Australian Greens may have the balance of power in the Senate after the August Federal Election and its official party policy as it stands is so negative to non-government schools," concluded Mr Daniels.

ENDS

Contact James Mathews 0407416002

NB: Australian Greens Website accessed 3 pm 6 August 2010