



Media Statement

15 April 2010
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Statement by Mr Bill Daniels, Executive Director, Independent Schools Council of Australia

Details of Funding Review Welcomed

Ms Gillard's speech marks the beginning of an open and extensive review of funding arrangements for schools. ISCA welcomes the opportunity to consult with the Government in establishing the terms of reference for the funding review.

ISCA also acknowledges that Ms Gillard has detailed a number of commitments that form the broad framework for the review.

ISCA is particularly supportive of the Government's decision to conduct a review of funding arrangements of all schools irrespective of sector. This is a positive step in setting aside the public/private debate to focus on more important issues affecting educational outcomes.

Ms Gillard's guarantee that "*no school will lose a dollar of funding in the sense that their school budget per student will not reduce in dollar terms*", will go some way in providing schools with confidence about stable and predictable funding which is critical for quality school provision.

ISCA particularly welcomes Ms Gillard's commitment to highlight the funding of students with disability and special needs.

The independent schools sector values its direct funding relationship with the Australian Government and wishes to see this reflected in any new funding arrangements.

The funding review will demonstrate the significant contribution independent schools make to the education of more than half a million students with different abilities from all socio-economic and cultural backgrounds from around Australia.

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