

# Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Independent Schools  
Council of Australia

## Independent schools sector welcomes ALP's commitment to stable funding arrangements

'The ALP's announcement yesterday that it will retain the SES funding model for non-government schools into the 2009-2012 quadrennium is very good news for schools and families,' said Mr Bill Daniels, Executive Director of the Independent Schools Council of Australia.

Mr Daniels said stability in funding arrangements helps both schools and families with forward planning.

'Independent school funding is a partnership between the Australian Government, state and territory governments and parents,' said Mr Daniels. 'If governments reduce their contribution then parents must pay more. Stability and certainty in government funding mean families are better able to budget in advance for school fees.'

Mr Daniels said the ALP's announcement is consistent with ISCA's discussions with Shadow Minister Stephen Smith over recent months.

'The ALP's promise to retain the SES model and full indexation of schools funding, together with its repeated assurance that no independent school would lose funding under a Labor government, is a welcome reflection of the key principles we believe should underpin government schools funding policies,' said Mr Daniels.

'There are four key principles that funding models for non-government schools must reflect,' said Mr Daniels. 'They must be stable and predictable; they must provide a reasonable per student basic entitlement in recognition of the role of governments in supporting the school education of all young Australians; they must be adequately indexed so that the value of grants is not eroded over time; and they must recognise that students have different levels of need.'

Mr Daniels said that while the SES funding model is a needs-based model and generally recognised as an improvement on previous models, it does not adequately provide for students with particular needs including students with disability, Indigenous students and students in rural and remote regions.

'The Australian Government has moved some way to addressing this issue, with targeted funding and a rural and remote loading on SES grants for example, but more can be done,' said Mr Daniels. 'We look forward to further detail on funding policies from both the Coalition and the ALP.'

ENDS.

**NOTE: ISCA has recently published on its website a brief explanation of needs-based funding and the SES model. Independent Update Issue 4 2007 can be viewed at [www.isca.edu.au](http://www.isca.edu.au)**

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