



# Media Release

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## **Students With Disability Need Equitable Funding, Not More Reviews**

The Independent Schools Council of Australia has today called on political parties to establish equitable funding arrangements for students with disability as a matter of urgency.

In an address to a Coalition forum on students with disability, ISCA Executive Director Mr Bill Daniels argued “Our proposition is simple – support for students with disability should be based on the level of funding required to allow them to achieve their educational goals.”

Currently, students with disability in independent schools receive significantly less government funding for their educational support needs than if they were educated in a government school.

“We do not argue that any sector should receive less support. However, it seems to be incongruous that a student who moves from a government school to a non-government school automatically loses access to government funded services,” said Mr Daniels.

“There is widespread support within the independent schools sector for portable funding that follows all students with disability that is based on their educational support needs.”

“There is no argument about the willingness to educate these students in this sector. The independent sector believes that parental choice of schools must be available for these students just as it is for other students.”

“Regrettably, since 1992 no government has been prepared to face the problem that the rights established under the Disability Discrimination Act to access choice of schools are not adequately supported by governments with commensurate funding,” Mr Daniels said.

Mr Daniels also argued that the families of students with disability and school communities need immediate policy action as more reviews or inquiries will only prolong the problem.

“We already know enough to be able to devise an equitable funding scheme to support these students and the independent sector is more than willing to participate in developing the policy of any political party willing to design a scheme.”

“We do not need more research, more reports and more evidence. We need hard-nosed political will and some serious additional funding,” said Mr Daniels.

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