

Media Release

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Independent Schools
Council of Australia

Putting facts back into the school education debate

‘Public debate on schooling has been undermined by misrepresentation about how non-government schools are funded,’ said Mr Bill Daniels, Executive Director of the Independent Schools Council of Australia.

Mr Daniels said the independent sector is concerned that debate on funding issues was focused only on Australian Government contributions.

‘Some people have the impression that non-government schools get more public funding than government schools,’ said Mr Daniels. ‘Nothing could be further from the truth. Taking into account state and territory government and Australian Government contributions to Australian school education, students in independent schools on average receive less than half the public support of students in government schools and many students get far less.

‘Schooling is an issue of high national importance and public debate must be based on fact, not misinformation,’ said Mr Daniels.

As a contribution to a well-informed public debate, the Independent Schools Council of Australia today released three information sheets to highlight important facts about government funding of independent schools:

- Government funding to the independent sector has increased because the number of students has increased. In the last 20 years independent sector growth was more than double that of the Catholic schools sector and nearly 14 times that of the government sector.
- Public support for a student in a government school is on average \$10,715 each year, but for a student in an independent school it can be as low as \$1,570. On average, total government funding for an independent school student is \$5,050 a year.
- Australian Government funding for independent school students is allocated on a needs basis, according to the socio-economic profile of the school the student attends. Students in school communities with the greatest capacity to raise funds receive the least public funding.
- Families, not governments, are the main source of funding for the independent sector and account for 56 per cent of sector income.

Issues 1 to 3 of ISCA’s 2007 Independent Updates can be viewed at www.isca.edu.au

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