Media Release

17 February 2016

Flawed ‘Analysis’ Perpetuates School Funding Myths

Independent Schools Victoria (ISV) has dismissed as flawed and misleading a report by Save Our Schools (SOS), a small activist group that opposes government funding to non-government schools.

The report claims that selected Independent schools receive an unfair share of government funding at the expense of disadvantaged government schools.

‘This is fundamentally flawed,’ ISV Chief Executive, Ms Michelle Green, said.

‘It cherry-picks the schools it compares, and uses percentages, not actual dollar amounts, to reach predetermined conclusions that perpetuate myths about school funding.

‘Any analysis of government funding to schools should include dollars, not just percentages. Otherwise, it’s just bad maths and disingenuous.’

In dollar amounts, government schools mentioned in the SOS report receive substantially more government funding per student than non-government schools.

Non-government schools cited in the report are among those receiving the lowest levels of government funding in Victoria.

‘Focusing on percentage increases is misleading,’ Ms Green said.

One government school cited in the report received a 16 per cent increase, amounting to $1554 per student, while a 38 per cent increase to an Independent school amounted to just $938 per student.

The SOS report concedes that funding increases for many disadvantaged government schools matched or exceeded those for non-government schools. It also concedes that many non-government schools have received smaller increases than those schools SOS highlights.
‘These admissions undermine the validity of this report,’ Ms Green said.

‘Selective use of statistics can be used to prove anything, including the myth that non-government schools receive more government funding than government schools.

‘This does nothing to address the challenges facing all sectors of the school system. ISV believes all schools in all sectors should receive funding that matches the needs of their students.’