1. Facts and Figures about Victorian Independent Schools

Independent schools in Victoria generate more than 66.6 per cent of income from parents.

The Review of Funding for Schooling provides the first opportunity in nearly 40 years to analyse government funding for all students.

**Fundamentals**

Independent Schools Victoria’s response to the Review is based on four fundamentals:

- Choice in education is defended in legislation
- A freeze of funding on individual independent schools is unacceptable
- Funding should be centred on students, not schools
- Personal or private contributions towards a child’s education should have no bearing on the level of funding they receive.

**Independent school statistics**

There are 219 Independent schools in Victoria educating 123,632 students – that is:

- 9.6 per cent of the state’s schools, educating 14.5 per cent of Victoria’s students, broken down to:
- 10.2 per cent of Victoria’s primary school students, 19.1 per cent of secondary students and 20.8 per cent of VCE students.

Government education funding must be equitable.

There are 46 primary schools, 21 secondary schools, and 152 combined primary/secondary schools of which 188 are co-educational, 19 are girls-only schools, and 12 boys-only.

Most Independent schools (78.6 per cent) are in metropolitan areas and 21.4 per cent are in rural and regional areas. They average 565 students per school, compared with 380 in the Catholic sector and 342 in government schools.

**Funding**

Non-government schools receive less public funding than government schools. Independent and Catholic schools educated 36.3 per cent of Victorian school children in 2008-2009 but received only 22.4 per cent of total government funding.

In that year, the Australian and Victorian governments provided combined funding of $6.656 billion to Victorian government schools, $1.318 billion to Victorian Catholic schools but only $609 million to Victorian Independent schools.
Non-government schools receive less public funding than government schools.

Victorian government schools received combined government funding of $12,381.53 per student in 2008-2009, while Independent schools received just $5143.25 per student.

Across Australia, government schools received combined government funding of $30.856 billion, or $13,543.86 per student. Catholic schools received $5.191 billion, or $7394.66 per student but Independent schools received only $2.893 billion, or $6050.86 per student.

On average, Independent schools in Victoria generate more than 66.6 per cent of their income from parents and other private sources. The rest comes from the state and federal governments.

Parents choosing to invest their after tax dollars by educating the children in non-government schools are saving other taxpayers’ dollars. Victorian Independent schools saved Victorian taxpayers $857 million in 2008-09 and the Victorian Government $1.149 billion.

Our view
Government education funding must be equitable regardless of the school students attend. A core grant allocation and funding for students with special needs should be fair and transparent for all students.

Combined Government Funding for Victorian Schools ($ billion, 2008-2009)

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