2. Recommendations

More than 90 per cent of students at Victoria’s Independent schools receive offers to continue their studies at university, TAFE, or in apprenticeships.

Introduction

Any new funding model should focus on the educational needs of individual students, and be:

- constructed so that all students benefit
- efficient, effective and equitable
- fair for all students, transparent to schools and to the public
- based on reliable data that minimises the chance of results being manipulated by individuals or schools in order to maximise funding outcomes.

More than 90 per cent of students at Victoria’s Independent schools receive offers to continue their studies at university, TAFE, or in apprenticeships.

Recommendations

1. That the Review of Funding for Schooling adopt one of the two models proposed by Independent Schools Victoria in order to protect parental choice:

   - The Portable Funding Allowance (PFA) moves towards funding equity for all students by removing the distinction between government and non-government education, which is a barrier to equality. Under a PFA all students would be assessed and funded equally, regardless of socioeconomic profile and schooling sector.

   - The Community Based Funding (CBF) model allows for students to be assessed in a similar manner to the existing funding model, but refines the process with more accurate information.

2. That the Review of Funding for Schooling recommends that all students in receipt of needs-based funding be funded at the same rate, irrespective of sector.

Currently students with a disability are funded at different levels depending on the school that they attend. Equitable funding requires that students should be funded the same rate.
Currently students with a disability are funded at different levels depending on the school that they attend.

3. That the Review of Funding for Schooling recommends that the Average Government School Recurrent Costs (AGSRC) continue to be used as a valid mechanism to assist with school supplementation, but that the calculation must be transparent and available for public scrutiny.

Independent Schools Victoria does not consider that the AGSRC is flawed but the way that it is determined should be changed because it is neither transparent, nor accountable to the public.


The Prime Minister and the Minister for Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth have given assurances that schools will not lose ‘one dollar’ of government funding. However any major changes to funding arrangements will affect the financial position of schools. Transitional arrangements are required to ensure that the education outcomes of students are not affected, and that parents will still be able to exercise their right to choice of a school in the future.

Fair Funding for Independent Schools

Four messages for the Australian Government’s Review of School Funding:

1. Choice in education must continue to be defended under Victorian and Australian legislation
2. Focus funding on students, not schools
3. Schools’ income from parents or elsewhere must not diminish government funding
4. No funding freeze for individual schools.

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