



**Independent
Schools Victoria**

Media Release

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Budget – Concerns about 'New' Education Funds

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The more closely we examine the Budget, the greater is our concern that 'new' funding by the Australian Government for the National Plan for School Improvement (NPSI) is greatly exaggerated.

In his speech, the Treasurer promised '\$9.8 billion invested in new school funding'.

But the Federal Government has budgeted only \$2.8 billion for NPSI in its forward estimates. The 'missing' \$7 billion falls beyond the government's budgeting horizon (finishing in 2016-17).

In addition, money is being pulled out of the following National Partnership (NP) programs:

- Low Socio-economic Status School Communities
- Empowering Local Schools, Literacy and Numeracy Funding
- Rewards for Great Teachers
- Rewards for School Improvement.

This withdrawn NP funding amounts to \$2.1 billion (to 2016-17) and is being used to help pay for the NPSI. That means, at most, only \$0.7 billion of the \$2.8 billion NPSI funds is actually 'new' money for schools as fully 75 per cent of the 'new' funds have been rebadged from existing NP programs.

We will continue analysing the figures but the Federal Government needs to provide certainty and confidence that promises to improve funding for the education of all Australians will be kept.