



**Independent
Schools Victoria**

Media Release

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Seeking Common Ground for the Common Good

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Independent Schools Victoria (ISV) is concerned that a new report with the stated aim of informing public discussion about the school education system instead risks entrenching misconceptions and divisions.

The report was released this week by the Australian Government Primary Principals Association, which plans to use it in a campaign in support of government schools.

ISV Chief Executive, Ms Michelle Green, said that while she welcomed informed public debate, the report, *Building our Nation Through Public Education*, used out-dated data about government funding for Independent schools in a way that pitted government schools against non-government schools.

'We need to ensure that **all** Australian schools – Government, Independent and Catholic – are adequately funded,' Ms Green said.

'By focussing on the level of Commonwealth funding to non-government schools, the report gives a distorted picture of how schools are funded.'

'The facts are that the states and territories are the major funders of government schools, and that, on average, non-government schools receive \$8812 per student, compared to \$15,703 per student in government schools.'

'It's a pity that, while the stated aim of the report is to support government schools, its tone and content perpetuate common misconceptions and divisions between school sectors.'

'A strong, innovative and diverse education system is essential to the wellbeing of our students and the nation as a whole.'

'The growth of Independent education does not have to come at the cost of government schools. Nor are the challenges facing some government schools simply the result of funding models – a point the report concedes. It also concedes that Independent schools act responsibly and can serve the common good.'

'With that in mind, the challenge for governments and educators from all sectors is to seek common ground and to collaborate to meet the needs of all Australian students.'

**For more information, or to interview Michelle Green
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