



**Independent
Schools Victoria**

Media Release

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Election: Reduce School Regulations Support Teachers

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Michelle Green, Chief Executive, Independent Schools Victoria

Independent Schools Victoria wants election commitments that will reduce regulations and provide more support for teachers.

There is a lot of talk about Australia becoming a high productivity 'smart country', achieving 'top five' school performance among Asian nations. This rhetoric needs to be matched with national action.

Reduce Regulations

Our Member Schools throughout Victoria want all candidates for the 7 September federal poll to know that the new funding arrangement will impose onerous restrictions holding back schools from providing education quality and freedom of choice.

Independent schools say the Commonwealth's newly named Better Schools Program will increase compliance burdens. We recognise the need for accountability but it needs to be reasonable, practical and not double up with existing requirements.

A growing number of our 212 Member Schools throughout Victoria are having to employ compliance officers to relieve the administrative pressure on principals, business managers and teachers who are dealing with more and more red tape created by regulatory bodies.

Political parties must pledge to:

- require the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations to monitor and reduce regulation affecting Independent schools
- require the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) to reduce school reporting demands
- ensure that any increase in ACARA's budget is tied to growth in per student cost.

For more information, or to interview Michelle Green
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Support Teachers

The funding row sparked by the Gonski recommendations has over-shadowed the need for greater support for the teaching profession that is facing actual and perceived challenges of falling entry standards, obstacles to professional learning and career progression, and an ageing teacher demographic.

More needs to be done to raise the quality of entrants into the profession.

Independent Schools Victoria recommends:

- more rigorous and targeted admissions into university courses, including interviews, demonstrated values and aptitude, and a submission of a written statement
- a new literacy and numeracy test, requiring that teaching students are in the top 30 per cent of the population for literacy and numeracy by the time they graduate
- a national assessment framework, to ensure new teachers have the skills, personal capacity and practical experience they need to do well
- a review of all teaching courses by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency.

To ensure Australia achieves 'smart country' status, it must ensure that teacher salary and career progression is competitive with other sectors.

Political parties must pledge to:

- reverse the decision to cap tax deductible self-education expenses
- review and rectify the consequences of the change to Motor Vehicles Fringe Benefits Tax.

Independent Schools Victoria election material can be read on our website:
www.is.vic.edu.au