



**Independent
Schools Victoria**

Media Release

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Response to Federal Budget

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Michelle Green, Chief Executive, Independent Schools Victoria

We welcome the Coalition Government's Budget commitment to continue the present funding arrangements for non-government schools until 2017. This will give principals and business managers of Victoria's Independent schools some confidence in their financial planning, at least for that period.

While we are pleased with the announcement by the Minister for Education, Mr Christopher Pyne, that the government is providing record recurrent school funding of \$64.5 billion over four years, we are concerned about what happens in the following years.

The statement in the Budget Overview that the government is 'adopting sensible indexation arrangements for schools from 2018' is worrying. Budget Paper 3 states that for the purpose of the Budget, an estimated CPI of 2.5 per cent has been used in formulating the 2018 Student First funding estimate. This is about half the real cost to schools of educating students recorded in the last ten years. If this figure is used it is likely to cause a significant shortfall in school budgets.

We hope that this will be recognised when the Commonwealth negotiates with states and territories on school funding over the next 18 months and the White Papers covering Federation reform and Australia's tax system are developed.

We do not want the negotiations to stretch out to once again cause delay in funding for Independent schools. Too often in recent years certainty of school funding has been a mirage.

**For more information, or to interview Michelle Green
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