Media Release
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School Funding Review must not be a Carve-Up of Dollars

Statement by Michelle Green, Chief Executive, Independent Schools Victoria.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Ms Julia Gillard, has announced a review into school funding in Australia.

Independent Schools Victoria welcomes an open and transparent review of federal funding for the education of all Australian students.

We believe more money needs to be spent on the education of all Australian children. This review should be about funding education appropriately, not carving up money between sectors.

The assurance that the review is not about taking money away from schools is welcome. We should not be blaming some people who have made decisions on behalf of their children’s schooling.

Parents of students at independent schools have put their hands in their own pockets to pay for education. Not one student in a non-government school gets more government money than a student in a government school – in fact they get far less.

The Minister’s speech highlights the need to ‘be prepared to examine the funding of all schools from all sources’. Independent schools should not be singled out from government schools because they receive after tax contributions from parents and others in their school communities.

While we welcome the Minister’s statement that ‘no school will lose a dollar of funding in the sense that their school budget per student will not reduce in dollar terms’ we would be concerned if funding is frozen indefinitely at current levels.

All parents want the best possible education for their children and many choose non-government schools that meet families’ educational, cultural, social and religious values, even though they must make their own personal contribution to the education of their children.

We look forward to taking part in a broad discussion, based on evidence that produces a policy that is fair and does not discriminate against parents who seek choice in education.

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