



**Independent  
Schools Victoria**

# Media Release

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## Question for the PM: How much of the Gonski \$9.8b is new money?

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Michelle Green, Chief Executive

Independent Schools Victoria has written to the Prime Minister asking Ms Gillard to answer questions about funding of the National Plan for School Improvement (NPSI) announced in the Budget.

Schools have been analysing the Budget papers to calculate what funding they will receive. Uncertainty is turning into anxiety as many Principals and Business Managers wait to find out how they will manage budgets next year and into the future.

They heard the Treasurer promise \$9.8 billion in new school funding but there is only \$2.8 billion for the NPSI in the forward estimates. The remaining \$7 billion falls beyond the budgeting horizon of June 2018.

To help find the \$2.8 billion, the government has cancelled five National Partnership programs that produce \$2.1 billion through to 2016-17, or 75 per cent of NPSI funding. That means, at most, only \$0.7 billion of the NPSI funds appears to be new funding.

The savings from 'education reforms' reported in the Budget exceed the amount of new money between 2014-15 and 2016-17. Since much of these savings are from National Partnerships funds, which schools have already been receiving, what is happening to the \$9.8 billion of 'new money' that was mentioned in the Treasurer's Budget speech, and how much of this is truly 'new'?

According to figures released in the government's 2012 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook and the 2013-14 Federal Budget there appears to be a cut of \$138 million in funding to non-government schools in the period 2013-14 to 2015-16 while at the same time funding for government schools will increase by \$2.05 billion.

We are asking the Prime Minister to confirm these figures and explain why this cut is necessary.

Finally do Ms Gillard and the Minister for School Education, Mr Garrett, reaffirm their commitments that 'no school will lose a dollar' as a result of Gonski funding. Indeed Ms Gillard said that every Independent school will receive an increase in government funding.

**For more information, or to interview Michelle Green  
Contact Brian M. Peck on 0437 515 505**