



Media Release

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Reliable data must underpin changes to school funding

40 Rosslyn Street
West Melbourne VIC 3003

PO Box 119
North Melbourne VIC 3051

T 03 9825 7200
F 03 9826 6066

www.is.vic.edu.au

ABN 44 711 074 857
A0009210H

Michelle Green, Chief Executive, Independent Schools Victoria

The proposal by federal Education Minister, Mr Christopher Pyne, to go back to the drawing board on national funding for education is an opportunity to ensure that new arrangements are based on reliable data.

The Better Schools funding model uses self-reported figures. Previously, data collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics underpinned the socioeconomic status funding model.

We need to ensure that data that is used to allocate funding to schools is accurate and reliable and cannot be 'gamed'. This has been our position since the first days of the Gonski funding inquiry.

We welcome the Coalition Government's determination to reduce the growth of onerous reporting by schools to public servants. Accountability for funds received is needed but it must be reasonable.

We understand that Mr Pyne's review of funding will not impact on Independent schools in Victoria in 2014. We expect that within the next week schools will receive notional funding allocations for 2014 from the Australian Government.

It is too early to speculate about the impact on funding and accountability for Victorian Independent schools beyond next year but the Minister has indicated that any changes will not apply until 2015 at the earliest.

We note that Mr Pyne has confirmed that the Coalition's pre-election commitment is to match the quantum of funding promised by the former government over a four year period, and that the Coalition had never committed to maintain the Better Schools funding model.

We are continuing to work with Mr Pyne and his Education Department and Victoria's Minister for Education, Mr Martin Dixon and his department, to provide funding certainty for our 200-plus schools and the parents of some 126,000 students that attend our Member Schools.

To interview Michelle Green, contact Brian M. Peck on 0437 515 505