



**Independent
Schools Victoria**

Media Release

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School funding – progress but schools have not signed

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Michelle Green, Chief Executive, Independent Schools Victoria

Today's agreement indicates progress in resolving issues surrounding proposed school funding but no Independent schools in Victoria have signed an agreement with the Commonwealth.

Independent schools' principals and business managers worrying about next year's budgets will be relieved that it appears that there is some movement on funding arrangements.

We will provide further information on outstanding matters to assist our 212 Member Schools in Victoria before they decide to sign agreements with the federal government. Neither Independent Schools Victoria nor the national organisation, the Independent Schools Council of Australia is able to sign on behalf of schools. Our role is to support schools, and this is confirmed in today's agreement.

The 2014 funding for Victorian schools cannot be calculated until the outcome of negotiations between Victoria and the Commonwealth is known. This will determine the model that the Victorian Government uses to allocate its share of funding for non-government schools, as well as the transition and indexation arrangements that are applied to Victorian non-government schools.

I sought clarification from the Minister for Education, Mr Shorten today on matters that are still likely to concern our members.

In addition to data quality, model integrity and the quantum of funding we have also raised the question of increased accountability. We will be seeking the financial modelling because we will want to check it thoroughly. So far previous models have not been accurate or consistent.

Implementation of the new funding arrangements will be complex in 2014 because individual school data will have to be reviewed to determine funding entitlements. Schools will have to prepare school improvement plans.

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