



Media Statement 20 September 2018

Parents relieved funding uncertainty ended

Parents of children at non-government schools across Australia are relieved to have months of uncertainty over school funding and its potential impact on school fees answered by today's Federal Government announcement.

Parents make a financial commitment of up to 13 years per child when they choose a non-government school. The Australian Parents Council (APC) has consistently called for the impact on family budgets to be taken into consideration when transitioning to a new method of assessing parents' capacity to contribute to school fees. Stability in funding is essential to maintain choice, allow families, schools and teachers to plan for the future, and ensure continuity and opportunity for children.

APC continues to call for parents to be properly briefed and included in consultations on the implementation of the proposed new assessment method based on parents' income tax data.

"Parents are, after all, the biggest stakeholders and the people who ultimately foot the bill when it comes to school fees, so deserve a seat at the table," asserts APC President, Shelley Hill.

"There are many outstanding concerns about the use of parents' tax data that need to be addressed openly so everyone can have confidence that the new assessment system is a fair, accurate and reliable measure. Parents also want to ensure they are not penalised on the basis of the education they are choosing for their children and that their privacy is being protected."

Shelley Hill said: "It's important the government addresses these concerns openly and shares information and involves parents and carers in the decision making. We all want a fair, equitable and transparent system of school funding, but parents remain to be convinced that the new system will be an improvement on current arrangements and want more detail on how it will work in practice. At the moment there are more questions than answers.

"APC looks forward to working closely with Education Minister Dan Tehan and his team to ensure the interests of parents are properly considered in the development of the new funding model and transition arrangements," said Shelley Hill.

APC supports fair, equitable and transparent funding to ensure quality education for all children, wherever they go to school.

Ends

Contact media@austparents.edu.au for more information or interviews