



Media Statement 6 July 2018

Parents call for briefing on potential changes to school funding

Parents are asking to be involved in decisions about proposed new funding arrangements for non-government schools.

The Australian Parents Council is calling for a full briefing on the new arrangements recommended by a National School Resourcing Board review, which Education Minister Simon Birmingham is considering.

The review has recommended future funding be based on a measure of parental income to determine parents' capacity to contribute. The previous system was based on where families lived.

'Parents of children at Catholic and independent schools are the biggest stakeholders in this debate. We are the most invested in our children's education, in every sense. Ultimately it is parents who foot the bill,' said Shelly Hill, APC President.

"It is essential that we are properly briefed on how the new system will work, how it is an improvement on the current funding arrangements, how it will be fairer, and how it will impact parents and family budgets.

"At the moment it is unclear what the impact might be. There are likely to be winners and losers and many parents are worried by the uncertainty.

"We will be writing to Minister Birmingham to request a full briefing" said Shelley Hill.

APC supports quality education for every Australian child and supports equitable and transparent funding arrangements for all schools. It also supports parents' right to choose, and warns that families will need time to adjust if necessary.

"It is crucial that the accessibility and affordability of school options are protected. It is a strength of the education system in Australia that so many parents can choose a school best suited to their child.

"Parents at non-government schools plan long term for their children's education, making a significant financial commitment of up to 13 years for each child. They need adequate time if funding changes mean they have to adjust their plans, to ensure continuity of schooling and the wellbeing of their children. Transition arrangements need to take into account the impact on families, as well as schools," explained Shelley Hill.

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