

Media Release

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Independent Schools
Council of Australia

Budget 2007: Independent sector welcomes support for high quality schooling

Responding to the 2007 Federal Budget, Independent Schools Council of Australia Executive Director Mr Bill Daniels said all school sectors would welcome the Australian Government's substantial financial commitment to the education of young Australians.

'The 2007 Budget commits significant additional funding to Australian school education, over and above existing legislated funding arrangements,' said Mr Daniels. 'It is pleasing that the Government has been prepared to address identified areas of need, including indigenous students and students in need of extra support in literacy and numeracy.'

Mr Daniels said the Budget initiatives supplement the long-term stable funding arrangements for non-government schools that the Australian Government has had in place since 1996.

'The independent sector particularly welcomes the additional funding to help meet the specific needs of non-government schools serving rural and remote communities,' said Mr Daniels.

'The Budget recognises the high costs incurred by schools in rural and remote areas,' he said. 'The additional supplement to be made available to approximately 400 non-government schools will greatly assist those schools in providing a high quality education to students.'

Mr Daniels said the sector welcomed the additional support for indigenous students.

'The Indigenous Youth Leadership Programme has been an innovative initiative of this Government and we particularly welcome the continuation of the programme and the expansion of scholarships from 250 to 1000,' said Mr Daniels. 'Many indigenous students from rural and remote areas will benefit from this programme.'

Mr Daniels said the additional capital funds for non-government boarding schools with indigenous students were also welcome.

'The Budget also supports choice and diversity in school education,' said Mr Daniels. 'The growth in enrolments in independent schools demonstrates that parents want choice and are prepared to make considerable financial sacrifice to ensure their children attend schools that best meet their needs.'

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