



# Media Release

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## AEU analysis of school funding doesn't add up

The Association of Independent Schools of NSW (AISNSW) today rejected the findings of an analysis of school funding released by the Australian Education Union, saying it lacked credibility and was designed to deliberately mislead the Australian public.

Dr Geoff Newcombe, AISNSW Chief Executive, said the report's sole focus on the Commonwealth Government's role in school funding meant the report could not be taken seriously and contributed nothing to efforts to improve teaching and learning in Australian schools.

"By ignoring the fact that state and territory governments provide 90 per cent of funding for students attending government schools, serious questions must be raised around the credibility and usefulness of the report. The AEU appears more interested in influencing public opinion with misleading claims than it is in improving the quality of teaching and learning in our schools."

Dr Newcombe also said it was an irrefutable fact that students attending independent schools attract, on average, only half the level of public funding than if they attended a government school.

"Parents who choose an independent school are the main funders of their child's education. They make this choice knowing that in addition to the payment of fees from their after-tax dollars, their child will also receive less public funding for their education. It is unreasonable for the AEU to suggest that government funding should be further reduced for that child."

Dr Newcombe said that focusing on cross-sectoral collaboration, quality teaching and the use of evidence-based teaching and learning strategies would be a more productive approach by the AEU.

"The energy and resources spent on developing these reports, which add nothing to our knowledge or understanding of education, would be better spent focusing on ways to help all schools work together, to collaborate and share their knowledge of how to best improve the educational outcomes of all students", said Dr Newcombe.

"It is well and truly time that the AEU moved on from this divisive approach and seeking to deliberately mislead the public about school funding. We need to focus on ensuring that every teacher, regardless of which school they work in, have the skills, understanding and knowledge they need to make a positive difference to the educational outcomes of their students."

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