



Embargoed until 7.00pm, 15th April 2010

15 April 2010

MEDIA RELEASE

Gillard's funding assurances welcomed by independent schools

The Deputy Prime Minister's assurances about schools funding, made in her address to the Sydney Institute tonight, are welcomed by independent schools, said Dr Geoff Newcombe, Executive Director of the Association of Independent Schools of NSW.

"With the impending review of schools funding it is important that independent schools have some certainty about the future funding arrangements", Dr Newcombe said.

"It is important that every school community can plan their future knowing that their government funding is secure", said Dr Newcombe.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that *"no school will lose a dollar of funding in the sense that their school budget per student will not reduce in dollar terms"*. She also stated that the review is not about taking money away from schools and should be conducted in an atmosphere without fear.

Dr Newcombe also said: "It is important that parents are not penalised by a reduction in funding because they choose to commit their after tax dollars to their child's education."

"It is of course essential for us to see the specific details of the review outcomes before we can comment further", Dr Newcombe said.

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