



The Association of Independent Schools of New South Wales Limited

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**Letter to the Editor
The Sydney Morning Herald**

In the article "*Elite schools given pledge on funding*" (23rd May), your reporter has made a significant error in misquoting the Deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, in relation to her comments on schools funding. The Deputy Prime Minister did not describe the SES funding system as "one of the most complex, most opaque and confusing in the developed world". She was in fact referring to the overall system of schools funding in Australia and the fact that each state and territory uses different funding methods, resulting in a complex array of funding mechanisms.

The federal government's SES funding model is the most transparent we have had to date. Annual funding levels for individual non-government schools are published and are routinely referred to in the media. There is no lack of transparency. Schools funding from state and territory governments is less clear and, in NSW at least, details are not published. This makes it impossible for anyone outside of the education bureaucracy to determine the per capita funding for a student in a government school, whereas this is very clear for non-government schools using the SES model.

Independent schools in NSW welcomed the Deputy Prime Minister's comments at our Annual General Meeting this week and we look forward to working with her on the proposed review of school funding.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Newcombe', written in a cursive style.

Dr Geoff Newcombe
Executive Director
Association of Independent Schools of NSW