



**The Association of Independent Schools of New South Wales Limited**

---

Level 4, 99 York Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
Phone (02) 9299 2845 Fax (02) 9290 2274  
Web [aisnsw.edu.au](http://aisnsw.edu.au) Email [ais@aisnsw.edu.au](mailto:ais@aisnsw.edu.au)  
ABN 96 003 509 073

16 June 2008

**Letter to the Editor  
The Australian**

The report "*Public school funding short by \$8.4bn*" (16<sup>th</sup> June) is misleading in the way it contrasts expenditure on capital works in government schools with that of non-government, or independent, schools. Reading the report, one would be forgiven for thinking that independent schools receive around three times the amount of government funds for capital works. The reality, as reported in a number of government reports in recent years, is that almost 90% of capital expenditure by independent schools is sourced through private contributions, not from taxpayer funds.

The author of *Rebuilding Public Schools*, Adam Rorris, is correct in saying that the divide between school sectors is "both unnecessary and damaging" and it is the incorrect perception that non-government schools receive more in taxpayer funding than government schools that is a primary cause of this divisive debate. If we are to move on in the debate on school funding it is important that critical information such as who is actually paying for things like school infrastructure and other elements of education is made clear.

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

Dr Geoff Newcombe  
Executive Director