



MEDIA RELEASE

20th February 2012

Gonski Report welcomed – but needs Government commitment

The independent schools sector welcomed today's release of the Gonski Report into school funding but said further detail was needed before it could assess the recommendations.

Executive Director of the Association of Independent Schools of NSW, Dr Geoff Newcombe, said: "The report is a significant step in developing new funding arrangements for all schools and the Gonski Review Panel is to be commended for the thorough job it has done."

"We are particularly pleased with the recommendations around increasing the overall level of funding for schooling and recognition that there is a special case for improving funding for disadvantaged students, including those with a disability. This is especially important to independent schools.

"However, it is now critical for the Government to respond in detail to the recommendations. This includes attaching actual dollars to a new funding model so that independent schools know as soon as possible if there will be any changes to their funding arrangements", Dr Newcombe said.

Key recommendations of the Gonski Report include:

- An increase in overall government funding for schools
- Improved funding arrangements for all students with a disability, regardless of the type of school attended
- Development of a more accurate measure of the cost of educating a student to an accepted level
- The need to base all funding decisions on robust and comparable data.

The Government has responded in general terms on some of the recommendations but is yet to provide a full response to the Report.

"While independent schools support efforts to improve the existing funding arrangements, it is important that the Government moves quickly to provide schools with an indication of their funding levels for 2014. The Review commenced in early 2010 and nearly two years later schools still don't know what their funding will be the year after next."

Dr Newcombe said that the sector would continue to work closely with the Government to ensure future funding arrangements are based on robust and reliable data.

“A major emphasis of the Review was that it covered all schools, government and non-government, so we will continue to apply this benchmark to any future policy decisions made by the Government in implementing the recommendations. “

“As a result we will wait for further information and detail from the Government on its response before we can fully support the review. We are looking forward to working closely with the Government to achieve this aim.”

Dr Geoff Newcombe is available for interviews by calling Malcolm Hunt on 0412 885 136