



# Media Release

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## Fair schools funding is what we have – but not fair reporting

The Association of Independent Schools of NSW (AISNSW) said the article published in today's Sydney Morning Herald about the government funding of Independent schools was misleading, lacked balance and is clearly designed to create a false impression among readers.

The article, "*Sydney's top private schools getting millions from taxpayers*", quotes the total recurrent funding received by schools from Federal and State governments and deliberately presents the figures in a misleading manner designed to create division.

If the Sydney Morning Herald was interested in presenting a balanced perspective, it would have clearly identified the amount of funding each school received from state and federal governments in 2016 on a **per student basis**.

This would show that for 2016, in combined state and federal government funding, Turramurra High School received \$11,746 per student; Knox Grammar School received \$3,287 per student; The Scots College \$3,676 per student; and Loreto Kirribilli \$8,303 per student.

The article also fails to acknowledge that the 2016 funding figures from the My School website relate to the previous funding arrangements, and not the new arrangements introduced by the Australian Government which commenced this year. This will see funding for many independent schools, including some of those mentioned in the article, transitioning downwards over the next ten years to a lower rate.

In identifying the amount spent by some independent schools on previous and future capital projects, the article omits the fact that these projects are funded entirely from parent contributions and other private sources, at no cost to the taxpayer. These schools do not receive any government funding for these projects.

The omission of this important fact suggests either a deliberate attempt to create division between school sectors and the community with respect to school funding, or simply lazy journalism. The comment that these schools use government recurrent funding to 'offset' their capital project costs is simply wrong.

The implication of today's article, and numerous others published previously by this media outlet, is that children attending non-government schools are somehow undeserving of any taxpayer support for their education simply because of the school their parents have chosen. Yet the fact that 47 per cent of high income families choose a government school for their child, at full cost to the taxpayer, is never questioned.

It is unfortunate that the Sydney Morning Herald continues to wage an ill-conceived war against non-government schools, which educate 35 per cent of all Australian children, by presenting a lop-sided view of school funding that only ever tells part of the story.