

**SENATE EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION AMENDMENT BILL 2017  
PUBLIC HEARINGS – MONDAY 5 JUNE 2017**

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Question:**

**CHAIR:** Have you done any projections on what the continuation of funding maintained schools would cost in your sector?

**Ms Colman:** Continuation of funding maintained?

**CHAIR:** The conversation about overfunded and underfunded schools—if we maintained their current level.

**Ms Colman:** No, we have—

**CHAIR:** Take that on notice.

**Ms Colman:** Yes.

**Answer:**

There are no funding maintained schools in the Independent sector. All schools that are currently deemed to be above their SRS entitlement are transitioning into the funding arrangements utilising the differential indexation mechanism. If the question was intended to reference another aspect of current funding arrangements, ISCA would be happy to provide additional information if further clarification is provided.

**Question:**

**CHAIR:** I did want to ask some questions of the South Australian independent school association, but they have not been able to join us. But I did want to understand the concerns regarding the 10-year transition and how the increases in South Australia compare to independent sectors in other states. Would you need to take that on notice, Ms Colman?

**Answer:**

In analysing the differential transition rates for Independent schools across states and territories, ISCA has relied on the information provided by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. This information shows that Independent schools in South Australia are currently estimated to have an average Commonwealth share of SRS 71.4%. This is the same share as WA Independent schools but higher than NT and Tasmania's average Commonwealth shares which are 68.7% and 70.7% respectively. While these states and territories are furthest below the 80% commonwealth share benchmark, they would be expected to have higher growth year-on-year during the ten year transition.

**Question:**

**CHAIR:** And, similarly, I have some questions for Independent Schools Tasmania. At the end of their submission, they note that the funding for state-based non-government bodies will go down—specifically from \$640,000 to \$448,000. I want to know what member fees do they charge; how many members there are; what other sources of revenue do they have apart from government funding; how much did they receive in government funding before the Gonski arrangements; and a couple of other questions. I will put them on notice.

**Answer:**

The response from Independent Schools Tasmania is attached.

**Question:**

**Ms Colman:** My understanding is the department is currently developing some guidelines around access to the transition adjustment fund. We have provided some input and feedback into that, but I am expecting further consultation around that.

**Senator JACINTA COLLINS:** Are you happy to make available to us the nature of the input and feedback you put into that process?

**Answer:**

ISCA's input to the Department's request for comment on the Transition Adjustment Fund guidelines is provided below.

**Transition Adjustment Fund**

The proposed criteria for the Fund appear to be extremely narrow. While we understand the need to target the funding, the focus on disadvantage might not be appropriate considering the schools that might need to access the fund. Clarification around how disadvantage is defined will be important.

ISCA is also not sure that the quantum is sufficient to provide meaningful help to vulnerable schools over a sufficient timeframe.