

7 June 2017

Committee Secretary
Senate Education and Employment Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

**IST RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM THE SENATE EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – INQUIRY INTO THE AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION
AMENDMENT BILL 2017**

QUESTION FROM CHAIR: *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.*

RESPONSE FROM INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS TASMANIA (IST)

1. For the calendar year 2017, IST membership fees are \$17.32 per FTE student. Membership fees have increased by 15% since the Gonski arrangements began.
2. All 29 independent schools in Tasmania are IST members with a total of 9184.2 FTE students.
3. Total membership fee revenue from independent schools in 2017 is \$159,000. Of this, \$44,000 goes to ISCA in affiliation fees, leaving \$115,000 contribution to IST operations.

In 2017, IST has received \$35,000 in subscriptions from four Catholic member schools. However, all Catholic schools have now withdrawn from IST membership with effect from 31 December 2017.


4. In 2017, IST is receiving \$54,000 from the Tasmanian State Government to administer and deliver various State targeted programs.
5. In 2013, before the Gonski arrangements began, IST received \$1,025,000 in Australian Government funding from Targeted Programs and National Partnerships (Literacy, Numeracy, Students with Disabilities, Quality Teachers etc.).
6. In 2013, IST employed 5.4 FTE staff and 4.0 FTE contracted Education Consultants to administer, support and deliver programs to member schools.

By 2017, this has been cut back to 4.2 FTE staff and 2.0 FTE contracted consultants.

A further loss of \$190,000 in NGRB funding to IST would represent approx. 1.7 FTEs even before factoring in annual wage and cost increases.

7. It should be noted that the IST subsidiary – Independent Schools Block Grant Authority of Tasmania (ISBGAT) receives an Administration Allowance from the Australian Government Capital Grants Program (\$128,000 in 2017). This is of course quarantined for that purpose and is not included in the revenue or FTE staff figures quoted above.

Thank you for the opportunity to further clarify our submission.



TONY CREHAN
Executive Director, Independent Schools Tasmania