



2 March 2016

Committee Secretary  
Senate Select Committee on School Funding Investment  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

**By email ([schoolfundinginvestment.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:schoolfundinginvestment.sen@aph.gov.au)) & by post**

Dear Sir/ Madam

**Senate Select Committee on School Funding Investment**

The Association of Independent Schools of South Australia (AISSA) provides the following submission to identify the significant inequities which will be faced by South Australian schools as a result of the Australian Government's current policy position to not fully fund the Students First funding model. The AISSA's submission is provided in addition to its support for the submission made by the Independent Schools Council of South Australia (ISCA) on behalf of the national Independent school sector.

The Australian Government's decision to fund only the first four years, rather than the full six years, of the model, and index on the basis of CPI with an adjustment for enrolment growth thereafter, will have disastrous consequences for South Australian schools. At the end of 2017, South Australian schools will be funded below schools in all other States and Territories due to the State's agreed transition profile which provided the vast majority of the additional funding in the final two years of the model.

This is manifestly unfair to every South Australian child.

The AISSA has undertaken modelling to identify the implications for South Australian Independent schools of this decision. The modelling illustrates that, if South Australian Independent schools were located in any other State or Territory, without any school characteristics changing, they would receive substantially more funding.

The following table identifies the additional funding which would be received by South Australian Independent schools in 2017 if they were funded according to the transition profiles of other Australian States and Territories.

State	Additional funding which would be received by SA Independent schools
ACT	\$28,443,127
Tas	\$21,930,504
Vic	\$20,379,607
WA	\$19,186,294
NT	\$18,329,483
Qld	\$15,208,926
NSW	\$12,465,861

As the table demonstrates, on current modelling, South Australian Independent schools require an additional \$28,443,127 in 2017, or a 7% increase in funding, in order to ensure that they will be on a level playing field with the ACT, and an additional almost \$22 million to be on a level playing field with Tasmania at the end of 2017.

There is no justifiable reason why South Australian students should receive less funding than their interstate counterparts for no other reason than the differences in the agreed transition to full implementation profiles across the various States and Territories. In this context, I note that education costs are comparable across States and Territories.

The AISSA strongly supports the full implementation of the Students First funding model and has welcomed the recent commitment by the Australian Labor Party to the full rollout of the model, and in the model's agreed timelines. The AISSA calls on the Committee to recommend the full implementation of the Students First funding model.

If the Government does not intend to change its current policy, then urgent action is required to redress the serious inequities South Australian students will face at the end of 2017. It is essential that school funding is allocated in a fair, equitable and consistent manner across all Australian States and Territories.

Yours sincerely

Carolyn Grantskalns  
Chief Executive