



ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS OF VICTORIA

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NEW ANALYSIS OF TAXPAYER SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION

Research analysing where taxpayer dollars go to fund education shows that parents sending their children to non-government schools are saving other taxpayers almost \$5 billion a year.

The Association of Independent Schools of Victoria (AISV) is briefing the Federal Education Minister, Julie Bishop at the release of the research in Melbourne today (Monday August 20, 2007).

AISV commissioned the research to measure how much of Australians' tax dollars go into the three school sectors. The report, *Public Funding of Australian Schools: The Facts* was prepared by Matthew Ryan, an independent Canberra economist.

AISV Chief Executive, Michelle Green, says many Australians don't know how much of their tax federal and state governments allocate to government, independent or other non-government schools.

Official statistics do not provide an easy apples-with-apples comparison of where the education dollar goes, says Ms Green.

"Taking advantage of this ignorance and misunderstanding of the figures, opponents of adequate funding for independent schools distort the facts, further clouding the important debate about funding education."

Ms Green says it is important that taxpayers have a clear picture of how their money is shared between schools.

"We are less worried about which school gets how much and more concerned that all schools – government and non-government – should have the money they need to provide the best educational standards and values for students.

The analysis reveals that:

- The total level of public funding for each government school student is considerably greater than total public funding for non-government school students.
- Each student at an independent school costs the taxpayer about half the average amount of each student at a government school.
- Students at non-government schools save the Victorian Government \$1.2 billion a year.

FOR MEDIA: The launch of the research will be at **9.15am, Monday August 20**, at Bialik College Theatre, 429 Auburn Road, Hawthorn East.

For more information or to obtain a four-page summary of the report or a copy of the full report by email contact: Brian M. Peck 0437 515 505.