



AUSTRALIAN PARENTS COUNCIL Inc.

The national federation of organisations representing parents of students attending non-government schools to achieve choice, quality, equity and voice

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SUBJECT: APC welcomes Coalition focus on directly funding schools

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The parents of students attending Australia's non-government schools have welcomed the Coalition's announcement that, if elected, it will allow schools to self manage yet to be released funding for BER projects.

The executive director of the Australian Parents Council, Ian Dalton, said, "While the announcement made today by the Coalition relates to funding for BER projects in government schools, APC is heartened by the implications this announcement has for the future of funding for schooling. It is vitally important that a direct funding relationship is maintained between the Federal Government and non-government schools.

"The streamlined and cost-effective processes adopted by the non-government sector in delivering outstanding BER outcomes for the Federal Government and for non-government schools has demonstrated how risky it is for the Federal Government to use State and Territory Governments to deliver funding for schooling.

"APC will be delivering a strong message to the panel conducting the Federal Government's review of funding for schooling that non-government school parents have a number of concerns about the National Partnerships (NPs) model for delivering targeted funding to address the special learning needs of particular cohorts of students. Most of the feedback we have received about the rollout of funding through this mechanism has been negative.

"State and Territory governments appear to take a long time to get funding onto the ground and seem to be directing disproportionate levels of NP funding into bureaucracies. There is also a lack of real measures to hold the State and Territories accountable in respect of how efficiently and effectively they use the funds. It is therefore highly likely that similar inefficiencies as those seen in the BER rollout to government schools are occurring in the rollout of funding for targeted school funding through the NPs funding model."

"For all these reasons we welcome today's announcement by the Coalition," Mr Dalton concluded.

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