



Australian Parents Council

The National Federation of Organisations Representing Parents of Students attending Non-government Schools

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MEDIA RELEASE

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SUBJECT: **Coalition commitment to funding students with disabilities welcomed by parents of students in non-government schools**

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The executive director of the Australian Parents Council, Ian Dalton, has congratulated the Coalition on its announcement that, if elected, the Coalition will make a substantial investment in the schooling of students with disabilities, regardless of the school they attend.

According to Mr Dalton, "This policy announcement is the first substantial commitment ever made by political parties at the federal level to move towards providing more realistic levels of funding for students with severe disabilities whose parents choose for them to attend a non-government school.

"The appalling level of public funding that has been made available to students with disabilities who attend Australia's non-government schools has always been an absolute disgrace.

"The Coalition policy's aim of establishing nationally consistent definitions of disability with funding following the student with a disability through a portable education card with a value of up to \$20,000 a year, indexed to inflation, is a commendable first step in addressing the needs of these students in more realistic ways.

"APC is hopeful that such a measure would sit within an education agreement with the states and territories, as it would be disastrous if those governments sought to take advantage of new investment at the federal level to reduce their own spending in this area.

"It is also critical that any new federal funding for students with disabilities in non-government schools be paid by the Australian Government directly to non-government schools and systems, as opposed to being paid through existing National Partnerships arrangements with the states and territories," Mr Dalton concluded.