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The Need for Greater Transparency in Funding for Non-Government Schools

Non-government schools, including faith-based schools, make up an important part of our nation's educational landscape. These schools contribute to the rich tapestry of cultural and religious diversity that underpins Australian multiculturalism.

Based on measures of need, these schools receive public funding to educate more than 1.5 million students across the nation. Such funding should be accompanied by strong transparency and accountability measures to ensure that governments, families and the broader public can have confidence in how taxpayer funding is distributed and used.

Recent media reports, including the expose on practices at [Redeemer Baptist School](#) and corruption investigations into spending by [Catholic Schools NSW](#), have reinforced the need for greater transparency and accountability in the use of funding by non-government schools.

The IEU has long advocated for improvements to [funding accountability and transparency](#), including in the spending of funds targeted for [students with identified learning needs](#).

Recent developments demonstrate that reform can no longer be delayed.

There is a legitimate expectation that public funding is spent responsibly and directed solely towards its intended purpose: improving student academic outcomes and enhancing the student learning experience. Responsible school expenditure includes professional development for school staff, the development of curriculum materials, support for [students with disabilities](#), and [adequate pay](#) and working conditions for staff who deliver quality education.

Greater funding transparency will help ensure that funding is directed towards permissible educational purposes and student needs, rather than [excessive compliance and administration](#), superfluous activities, or expenditures that do not directly support student learning.

The IEU calls for reforms that strengthen funding transparency and accountability across the non-government school sector. Every public dollar invested in education should be accountable and focused on delivering the best possible outcomes for students.