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**Choice and Affordability Fund work plan**

**2020-2021**

**Association of Independent Schools of the ACT Inc**

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## Choice and Affordability Fund

### AISACT – Work plan 2020-2021

#### Summary

The Association's Strategic Intent guides the decisions and work of the Association, and articulates the key directions needed to achieve the Association's goals.

This Choice and Affordability Work plan 2020 – 2021 articulates our intent to plan for the future activities and distribution of the fund to the schools it is agreed the Association will represent under this fund.

To this end, AISACT will provide a range of programs, beginning in January 2022, and opportunities for schools to be supported from the Choice and Affordability Fund.

Future work plans will be developed during 2021 in consultation with represented schools to support the national priorities. During this planning, appropriate activities will be developed to support the implementation of the following national priorities:

a) Choice and affordability of schools

The Choice and Affordability Fund will provide funding for initiatives that facilitate parental choice and opportunity giving parents the ability to choose an affordable school that will best suit their individual child.

b) Transition assistance

The Choice and Affordability Fund incorporates the National Adjustment Assistance Fund, which was established to provide transition funding support for non-systemic independent schools. This means NGRBs will provide financial and other transition support for schools that would have met the criteria to have access to support through the National Adjustment Assistance Fund; that is, non-systemic independent schools which are expected to experience reductions in per student funding due to changes in Commonwealth recurrent funding settings over 2020 to 2029. The Choice and Affordability Fund will also provide support for schools in general to transition to a new capacity to contribute model for recurrent funding.

c) Special circumstances funding

The Choice and Affordability Fund will support schools and students impacted by special circumstances or in priority areas such as rural, regional and remote locations and areas affected by drought or other natural disasters.

d) Strengthening outcomes for schools and educationally disadvantaged schools and students

The Choice and Affordability Fund will support initiatives that strengthen outcomes for schools such as helping underperforming schools improve outcomes, including through school industry partnerships, and supporting educationally disadvantaged schools and students.

e) Student wellbeing and support

Student wellbeing is essential for both academic and social development. The Choice and Affordability Fund will support schools that require additional assistance to ensure safe, supportive and respectful learning environments.

- f) Other priorities identified by the Minister from time to time.

#### Summary of budget

| Priority                             | Activities/Initiatives   | Expenditure type | Choice and Affordability funding |                  |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
|                                      |  |                  | 2020                             | 2021             |
| <b>All priorities</b>                | <i>Association will plan for the future activities and distribution of the fund and resource appropriate staffing (using allowed administrative costs)</i> | Centralised      |                                  |                  |
| <b>Special Circumstances Funding</b> | <i>This will be provided upon a successful application from a school</i>   | Distributed      |                                  | \$100,000        |
| Administrative costs                 |  |                  | \$8,266                          | \$8,514          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                         |  |                  | <b>\$8,266</b>                   | <b>\$108,514</b> |

If funding is intended to be deferred and spent in later years, please provide a proposed 10 year profile and rationale for the expenditure of funds in future years:

|  | 2020      | 2021      | 2022      | 2023      | 2024      | 2025      | 2026      | 2027      | 2028      | 2029      |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| NGRB's estimated funding allocation as advised by the department | \$413,319 | \$425,718 | \$438,490 | \$451,644 | \$465,194 | \$479,150 | \$493,524 | \$508,330 | \$523,580 | \$539,288 |
| AISACT expenditure profile                                       | \$8,266   | \$108,514 | \$508,648 | \$578,104 | \$595,448 | \$613,312 | \$557,682 | \$574,413 | \$591,645 | \$602,202 |
| Accrued funding  | \$405,053 | \$722,257 | \$652,098 | \$525,638 | \$395,383 | \$261,221 | \$197,063 | \$130,980 | \$62,915  | \$0       |

The Workplan for 2022-2025 will articulate the expenditure profile against the National Priorities. The funding is largely deferred to be spent from 2023 to provide transition assistance to eligible schools, and to address the other National Priorities relevant to AISACT Member schools.

## **Choice and Affordability Fund**

### **AISACT – Work plan 2020-2021**

**Initiative/activity:** The Association will resource appropriate /additional staffing (using allowed administrative costs) to plan for the future activities and distribution of the fund

**Relevant national/local priority:** Consideration of all national priorities will be undertaken

#### **Description:**

AISACT will develop a program of activities and support mechanisms to be made available to all represented schools through either application for inclusion in the program or those schools which are identified as meeting specific criteria.

| <b>Indicative budget</b>                   | <b>Expected outcomes</b>   | <b>Indicators of success</b>   |
|--|--|--|
| Choice and Affordability Funding: \$16,780 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Suite of planned programs, support mechanisms, and funding distribution models to those schools who are eligible to receive support</li><li>• Appointment of appropriate staff</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Application process developed and advertised to all represented schools for participation in planned programs</li><li>• Allocation schedule for future funding to schools under support programs established</li></ul> |

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### AISACT – Work plan 2020-2021

#### **Initiative/activity: Special Circumstances Funding**

##### **Description:**

This priority will be supported by providing a process whereby schools can apply to access support in special circumstances. Initially \$100,000 will be set aside for this priority with the capacity to be topped up dependent on demand for assistance. AISACT will develop an application and approval process that will be made available to schools to access support on an as needed basis.

AISACT will ensure that Special Circumstances Assistance is prioritised for schools requiring short term emergency assistance, that is for schools in situations that satisfy all of the following criteria:

- **Unexpected** - Could not have been reasonably foreseen.
- **Causing severe financial difficulty** - Where a school faces a real prospect of having to cease a large part of its educational activities or significantly lower its educational services
- **Short term** - Schools should be able to overcome their financial difficulty and resume operations and must provide a five-year business plan and recovery plan.
- **A special need** - Schools have exhausted all other options to remedy the financial situation of the school.

The nature of support to a school experiencing special circumstances will vary by the type of circumstance. Schools can experience financial stress as a result of a range of events. If financial support is provided AISACT would offer to further support the schools to revisit their business model to cater for the circumstance and budget for their new financial situation.

| <b>Indicative budget</b>                        | <b>Expected outcomes</b>  | <b>Indicators of success</b>   |
|---|---|--|
| Special Circumstances Funding<br>2021 \$100,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A school in special circumstances applies for special assistance.</li><li>• If approved the school receives financial support</li><li>• A school receiving support will overcome its financial difficulties and resume viable operations.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Schools successfully access this fund when a special circumstance arises.</li><li>• Schools remain operational</li></ul> |