

CHOICE AND AFFORDABILITY FUND AGREEMENT

2020 to 2029

Independent Schools Queensland

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Choice and Affordability Fund Agreement

PRELIMINARIES

1. As part of the Australian Government's commitment to providing choice to Australian families, the Government announced the Choice and Affordability Fund. The Choice and Affordability Fund will provide an estimated \$1.2 billion over 10 years from 2020 to 2029 to address specific challenges in the non-government school sector. The Choice and Affordability Fund incorporates the National Adjustment Assistance Fund, which was established to provide transition funding support for non-systemic independent schools.
2. The Choice and Affordability Fund Guidelines (the Guidelines), published on the Department of Education, Skills and Employment website, outline the expectations for the fund through national priorities. The national priorities were developed in consultation with the national representative bodies and are:
 - Choice and affordability of schools
 - Transition assistance
 - Special circumstances funding
 - Strengthening outcomes for schools and educationally disadvantaged schools and students
 - Student wellbeing and support
 - Other priorities identified by the Minister from time to time.
3. Through the Choice and Affordability Fund Agreement (the Agreement), state and territory non-government representative bodies (NGRBs) agree to receive and use funding in line with these national priorities.
4. Funding is provided under section 70 of the *Australian Education Act 2013* (the Act) for an NGRB for the purpose of supporting school education at non-government schools. NGRBs are expected to provide all non-government schools they represent with the opportunity to apply for or be supported through the funding.
5. The NGRBs will report annually against the agreed arrangements, as set out in [Part 4 – Reporting and Payment Schedule](#). Ongoing reporting remains a condition of funding under the Act and the Australian Education Regulation 2013 (the Regulation).
6. As the NGRB anticipates a consistent approach to delivery of activities over the period of this Agreement, the Agreement does not require the NGRB to submit work plans as provided for under Part D of the Guidelines. If the NGRB's approach to delivery alters so that additional priorities are to be addressed this Agreement will be amended to provide for submission of work plans.
7. This Agreement is the written arrangement entered into in relation to the Fund for the purposes of paragraphs 25B(1)(c), 31(1)(d) and 36(6)(c) of the Regulation for payments the Minister for Education (the Minister) is able to make under section 70 of the Act. It sets out matters that the Minister for Education must have regard to for the purposes of determining an amount(s) of Choice and Affordability funding payable under section 70 of the Act for the NGRB. It also specifies the requirements on an NGRB with respect to its expenditure of Choice and Affordability

funding paid under the Act and associated reporting requirements. This Agreement does not impact the expenditure by the NGRB, or associated reporting, relating to the Non-Government Reform Support Fund.

8. Any action taken under the Agreement is subject to, and must be consistent with, the Act and Regulation and all other applicable legislation. The terms and obligations contained in the Agreement are in addition to and not to be read as limiting anything in the Act or Regulation.
9. To avoid doubt, this Agreement is not intended to create legally binding obligations on the Commonwealth of Australia whether contractual or otherwise for any purpose other than that permitted in accordance with the Act or Regulation. In accordance with subsection 25B(1) of the Regulation, the Minister will have regard to this Agreement, for the purpose of determining under section 70 of the Act, the amount of financial assistance that is payable to a State or Territory for a year, for a NGRB for a non-government school.
10. The Regulation prescribes a range of matters for the purposes of the Act including ongoing requirements for approval of NGRBs; matters relevant to actions the Minister may take for failure to comply with the Act or the Regulations; requirements in relation to the acquittal of funding paid under the Act; and other miscellaneous matters.
11. The Guidelines set out the requirements under the Regulation in relation to the administration, use and reporting of the Choice and Affordability Fund.
12. A reference to the Minister or the Secretary in this Agreement and the Guidelines includes a reference to a delegate of the Minister or the Secretary, respectively, under the Act.

PART 1 – PARTIES AND OPERATION

Parties

13. The Parties to this Agreement (the Parties) are:

- a) the Secretary of the Department of Education, Skills and Employment, and
- b) Independent Schools Queensland Ltd (ABN 88 662 995 577).

Term

14. This Agreement shall take effect on and from the date when it is signed by the last party to do so.

15. Unless terminated earlier in accordance with paragraph 19, this Agreement will expire on the latter of the following events:

- a) 31 March 2030, or
- b) on completion of a final annual report to the Secretary's satisfaction.

Review

16. The Commonwealth will review the Choice and Affordability funding arrangements in 2027.

Variation

17. This Agreement may be amended at any time with the agreement in writing of the Parties.

18. The attachments to this Agreement may be varied or revoked, and new attachments may be added, at any time with the written agreement of the Parties.

Termination

19. A Party to this Agreement may terminate the Agreement at any time by notifying the other Party in writing. A Party intending to terminate, should provide a minimum of 12 months' notice.

Survival of obligations following expiry or termination

20. The following obligations survive the expiry or termination of this Agreement:

- a) The requirement to submit an annual report as specified in Paragraph 39 of this Agreement and Part D of the Guidelines;
- b) any requirements under the Guidelines, the Act and/or the Regulation that expressly or impliedly continue to survive, including but not limited to those relating to:
 - i. expenditure of Choice and Affordability fund amounts received by the NGRB;
 - ii. ongoing policy and funding requirements for approval;
 - iii. monitoring the NGRB's compliance with the Act;
 - iv. keeping and providing information and records;
 - v. taking action with respect to non-compliance;

vi. requiring amounts to be repaid.

21. The above obligations continue until the Choice and Affordability funding is either fully spent or returned.

Dispute Resolution

22. Any Party may give notice to the other Party of a dispute under this Agreement. The notice must set out the nature of the dispute.

23. Within 10 business days (or such other period agreed to by the Parties in writing), each party will nominate a representative to try and settle the dispute by direct negotiation, in good faith.

24. The existence of a dispute does not, of itself, constitute failure to implement the Agreement by either Party.

PART 2 – PRIORITIES

National priorities

25. The Guidelines specify the national priorities determined by the Minister. Through this Agreement, the Parties commit to contribute to the following national priorities.

a) *Choice and affordability of schools*

The 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 Fund incorporates the National Adjustment Assistance Fund, which was established to provide transition funding support for non-systemic independent schools. This means NGRBs will make financial and other transition support available 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 year-on-year reductions in per student funding due to changes in Commonwealth recurrent funding settings over 2020 to 2029. The 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 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.

Special circumstances funding should be prioritised for schools requiring short term emergency assistance when unexpected circumstances or events cause severe and temporary financial difficulty. Assistance should be provided 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 and recovery plan.
 - **a special need**
 - Schools have exhausted all other options to remedy the financial situation of the school.
- f) *Other priorities* identified by the Minister from time to time.
Where new priorities emerge, the Minister will consult with NGRBs to be progressed only by the agreement of both parties.

26. Transition assistance (priority b)) and special circumstances funding (priority c)) are compulsory inclusions for all NGRBs and, along with the regional transition assistance support provided under paragraph 38, these priorities should be prioritised over the other national priorities.

27. The Secretary will provide advance notice to NGRBs through Funding Estimation Tools (FETs) of their represented schools which must have access to financial support through transition assistance (priority b)). The department expects the activities outlined in paragraph 29 should result in a nationally consistent approach to support for these schools and will provide guidance on funding that should be set aside to meet the requirements of these schools. There is flexibility for NGRBs to extend this support, or provide alternative transition support, to other schools.

28. The implementation of national priorities outlined in paragraph 25 of this Agreement is a condition of Choice and Affordability funding to the NGRB. It is anticipated that the Parties may vary paragraph 25 of this Agreement in writing, over time as national priorities are further developed, considered and are the subject of consultation.

Overview of activities

29. The following is an overview of planned activities and description of what the NGRB seeks to achieve with the Choice and Affordability Fund over 2020-2029.

Independent Schools Queensland through the Choice and Affordability Fund intends to support Queensland independent schools through the following priorities.

- Transition Assistance;
- Special Circumstances funding; and
- Choice and affordability of schools.

Transition Assistance

Regional Schools

Transition assistance will be provided for regional schools which have nominated to be represented by the Independent Schools Queensland NGRB, as identified by the criteria agreed by Independent Schools Australia being those schools with –

- ARIA+ score of greater than 0;

- A Direct Measure of Income (DMI) CTC score change of greater or equal to 3 points in 2020 from either 2011 or 2016 SES;
- Average fees of less than \$20,000 per annum based on the latest available My School data; and
- Less funding under the DMI in any year from 2020 to 2029 than it would have received under the 2020 settings based on SRS indexation.

Funding for each of the identified regional schools (these number 22 in 2020) will be determined on a loss of funding analysis which compares the school's per student funding in the base year (2021) indexed by the relevant indexation amount for the SRS, to the current year's per student funding for the eligible school. In considering this loss of funding analysis, only the impact of the change in the school's DMI CTC score and its transition pathway to 80% Australian Government funding will be taken into account; changes in student characteristics and other non-DMI factors impacting on a school's per student funding will not be considered.

For each year from 2022 to 2029, assistance will be provided to the identified regional schools by dividing the total regional school transition funding pool for that year (see Table below for the funding pool available each year) amongst the eligible schools on a pro-rata basis.

Transition assistance for the eligible regional schools will be payable annually from 2022 subject to the school preparing a transition plan for sustainability once Choice and Affordability funding ceases and the school demonstrating a financial need for the transition assistance.

For 2020 and 2021, transitional assistance for the identified regional schools will be considered where the school is a member of a system and the change in funding arrangements has resulted in the school receiving less per student funding in either of those years as a result of a change in CTC score.

The granting of transition assistance for regional schools will be informed by the Independent Schools Queensland Choice and Affordability Fund Special Circumstances and Transition Assistance Reference Group. This Reference Group will comprise a minimum of five persons, appointed by the ISQ Board of Directors, who will be independent of any individual independent school and who collectively possess a mix of skills, expertise and experience in financial assessment, program management and independent school governance and management.

The Choice and Affordability funding allocated to transitional assistance for regional schools during the period 2020 to 2029 is \$45,117,952 (as at 2020 and subject to updating during the period 2020 to 2029 based on allocation of the Choice and Affordability funds to NGRBs and indexation provisions).

Schools Eligible under the former National Adjustment Fund

Transition assistance will be provided for schools which are eligible under the guidelines for the former National Adjustment Assistance Fund.

Adjustment assistance will be allocated relative to other eligible schools considering the assessment of each eligible schools' relative "disadvantage" and/or "financial vulnerability".

Consideration of disadvantage and financial vulnerability will be in accordance with the guidelines for the former National Adjustment Assistance Fund.

The granting of financial assistance for schools eligible under the former National Adjustment Fund will be informed by the Independent Schools Queensland Choice and Affordability Fund Special Circumstances and Transition Assistance Reference Group. This Reference Group will comprise a minimum of five persons, appointed by the ISQ Board of Directors, who will be independent of any

individual independent school and who collectively possess a mix of skills, expertise and experience in financial assessment, program management and independent school governance and management.

The Choice and Affordability funding allocated to transitional assistance for schools eligible under the former National Adjustment Fund during the period 2020 to 2029 is \$20,000,000 (as at 2020 and subject to updating during the period 2020 to 2029 based on allocation of the Choice and Affordability funds to NGRBs and indexation provisions).

Other Transition Assistance

Transition assistance will be provided for schools where their circumstances are directly impacted by the introduction of the Direct Measure of Income funding arrangements.

Eligible schools will be those schools not eligible for regional schools' transition assistance and/or transition assistance for schools eligible under the former National Adjustment Fund and which –

- Receive less than SRS indexation in any year on a per student basis; and
- Can demonstrate a financial need for assistance.

For each year from 2020 to 2029, assistance will be provided to the eligible schools by dividing the total other transition assistance funding pool for that year amongst the eligible schools on a pro-rata basis.

Other transition assistance for the eligible schools will be payable annually subject to the school preparing a transition plan for sustainability once Choice and Affordability funding ceases.

The granting of other transition assistance will be informed by the Independent Schools Queensland Choice and Affordability Fund Special Circumstances and Transition Assistance Reference Group. This Reference Group will comprise a minimum of five persons, appointed by the ISQ Board of Directors, who will be independent of any individual independent school and who collectively possess a mix of skills, expertise and experience in financial assessment, program management and independent school governance and management.

The Choice and Affordability funding allocated to other transitional assistance for schools during the period 2020 to 2029 is \$8,800,000 (as at 2020 and subject to updating during the period 2020 to 2029 based on allocation of the Choice and Affordability funds to NGRBs and indexation provisions).

Special Circumstances Funding

Support will be provided to schools impacted by special circumstances including drought and natural disasters. As areas of Queensland are regularly impacted by cyclones and floods, this assistance will be important for school communities impacted by such natural disasters.

Short term emergency assistance will be considered when unexpected circumstances or events cause temporary financial difficulties in cases where the difficulties are as a result of unexpected events, they cause severe financial difficulty, are of a short term nature and all other options to remedy the financial situation of the school have been exhausted.

Applications for funding will be considered in accordance with the following criteria.

- The special circumstance was unexpected such that it would not have been reasonably foreseen by the approved authority.

- The special circumstance would, or is likely to, result in severe financial difficulty requiring the school to cease a large part of its educational activities, or significantly lower the quality of the education it provides, during the year.
- The financial difficulty is short term such that if the approved authority were to receive special circumstances funding, the school would be able to resume operating satisfactorily within two years or continue operating until the end of the year.
- The approved authority has exhausted all other options to remedy the financial situation of the school (including all alternative sources of financial assistance) and there is still a need for financial assistance under special circumstances funding to address the school's immediate financial difficulties.

In addition to the above criteria, schools receiving special circumstances funding as a result of the impact of the drought must be in a drought declared area or enrol students from drought declared areas.

The granting of Special Circumstances Funding will be informed by the Independent Schools Queensland Choice and Affordability Fund Special Circumstances and Transition Assistance Reference Group. This Reference Group will comprise a minimum of five persons, appointed by the ISQ Board of Directors, who will be independent of any individual independent school and who collectively possess a mix of skills, expertise and experience in financial assessment, program management and independent school governance and management.

The Choice and Affordability funding allocated to special circumstances funding during the period 2020 to 2029 is \$19,500,000 (as at 2020 and subject to updating during the period 2020 to 2029 based on allocation of the Choice and Affordability funds to NGRBs and indexation provisions).

Choice and Affordability of Schools

Grants will be provided to eligible schools for initiatives that facilitate parental choice in the context of affordability. ISQ will facilitate school projects which are expected to include the development of new Business Plans which incorporate adjustments to maintain their choice and affordability and projects which support the implementation of structural adjustments where such adjustments are required because of changes in funding arrangements.

Priority will be given to applications for funding from schools which are eligible for Choice and Affordability Funding under regional transition assistance, transitional assistance or transitional assistance under the former National Adjustment Assistance Fund Guidelines.

Applications will be assessed with priority given to projects which -

- Build on or scale up an innovation adopted during the period of the COVID – 19 pandemic and which contribute to facilitating parental choice;
- Build on new ways of working with technologies in delivering educational programs;
- Provide opportunities for schools to collaborate in sharing resources; and/or
- Identify efficiencies in school governance and management which enable schools to facilitate continued choice and affordability for parents.

Applications for funding will be called for annually. Grants of up to \$50,000 per school will be available for projects (schools may receive a grant for more than one project with a limit of two grants per annum).

The allocation of grants will be informed by the Independent Schools Queensland Education Committee. This standing Committee of the ISQ Board of Directors comprises Principals of ISQ member schools from a diverse range of schools and oversees ISQ Programs and activities in areas such as teaching and learning, school improvement and governance and management.

The Choice and Affordability funding allocated to choice and affordability project grants to schools during the period 2020 to 2029 is \$8,760,169 (as at 2020 and subject to updating during the period 2020 to 2029 based on allocation of the Choice and Affordability funds to NGRBs and indexation provisions).

Proposed Allocation of Choice and Affordability Funding

The proposed allocation of the Choice and Affordability funding for the period 2020 to 2029 under the various assistance measures is outlined below.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
<i>National Allocation of Available Funding</i>											
Special Circumstances Funding -drought assistance	1,000,000	1,000,000	750,000								2,750,000
Special Circumstances Funding - natural disasters	500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	9,500,000
Special Circumstances Funding - short term emergency	500,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	7,250,000
Transition Assistance - Regional Schools	500,000	500,000	5,626,619	5,626,619	5,626,619	5,626,619	5,626,619	5,626,619	5,626,619	5,626,619	46,012,955
Transition Assistance	300,000	500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	8,800,000
Transition Assistance - (former National Adjustment Assistance Fund)	250,000	250,000	1,500,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	20,000,000
Choice and affordability of schools	500,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	708,150	880,723	1,263,406	1,657,890	8,760,169
2% Administration	61,000	85,000	115,000	130,000	130,000	130,000	129,163	112,614	120,268	128,158	1,141,203
Total Proposed Expenditure	3,611,000	4,835,000	11,491,619	12,256,619	12,256,619	12,256,619	12,213,932	11,369,957	11,760,293	12,162,667	104,214,327
Carried Forward to future years	5,313,507	9,706,447	7,756,518	5,366,006	3,310,941	1,602,730	295,851	203,788	104,839	0	

As transition assistance will not be required for most schools until 2022, funding is carried forward in 2020, 2021 and 2022. This will provide for schools being able to receive transition funding in the later years where they have reductions in Australian Government funding.

It is also expected that the allocations for both Special Circumstances Funding – natural disasters and Special Circumstances Funding – Short Term Emergency Assistance will, if not fully paid in grants to schools in any year, will be carried forward under those categories of allocation to ensure there is sufficient funding available in future years to provide adequate Short Term Emergency Assistance.

Priority Objectives

The priorities that Independent Schools Queensland seeks to address over the period of the Choice and Affordability Fund are to –

Transition Assistance

- Provide direct financial assistance to independent schools which are adversely impacted by the new funding arrangements for schools to maintain their financial viability while they transition to new funding arrangements.
- Provide direct financial assistance to independent schools in regional areas which are adversely impacted by the new funding arrangements so that they remain affordable and continue to provide choice to families in regional areas.

- To provide direct financial assistance to independent schools which are adversely impacted by the new funding arrangements and which would have been eligible for assistance under the former National Adjustment Assistance Fund.
- To support structural adjustments and planning for structural adjustments for schools which are adversely impacted by the new funding arrangements.

Choice and Affordability of Schools

- Maintain and improve choice in schooling for Queensland families driving the improvement of educational standards and competition across the schooling system.
- Maintaining and improving opportunity and diversity in the schooling system through a vibrant independent schools' sector in Queensland.
- To support structural adjustments and planning for structural adjustments for schools which are adversely impacted by the new funding arrangements.

Special circumstances funding

- To provide short term financial assistance to independent schools impacted by special circumstances including, but not limited to, drought or other natural disasters considering the financial circumstances of parents and the ability of a schools to provide fee assistance to those impacted by the circumstances.

Intended Outcomes

The intended outcomes through the Choice and Affordability Funds for Queensland independent schools are –

Transition Assistance

- At least 22 regional independent schools are financially supported to transition to the new Direct Measure of Income (DMI) funding arrangements by 2029.
- At least 10 independent schools which would have met the criteria under the former National Adjustment Assistance Fund are financially supported to transition to the new Direct Measure of Income funding arrangements by 2029.
- Up to 20 other independent schools are financially supported to transition to the new Direct Measure of Income (DMI) funding arrangements by 2029.
- Up to 30 independent schools which are adversely impacted by the new funding arrangements are supported through project grants to facilitate structural adjustments and planning for structural adjustments to assist transition to the new Direct Measure of Income funding arrangements by 2029.
- To make available to all independent schools, information on structural adjustments and planning for structural adjustments as a result of projects and initiatives undertaken at selected schools.

Special Circumstances Funding

- Independent schools impacted by special circumstances including, but not limited to, drought or other natural disasters are financially supported to ensure continuation of their educational activities.

- Independent schools impacted by special circumstances including, but not limited to, drought or other natural disasters are financially supported to ensure the quality of their educational activities is maintained.
- Independent schools impacted by special circumstances including, but not limited to, drought or other natural disasters are financially supported to ensure their continued operation.

Choice and Affordability of schools

- Independent schools ensure choice in schooling is maintained and improved for Queensland families by supporting existing and new schools to provide diverse and affordable education opportunities through innovative projects which improve educational delivery or address efficiencies in governance and management.
- Up to 30 independent schools which are adversely impacted by the new funding arrangements are supported through project grants to facilitate structural adjustments and planning for structural adjustments to assist transition to the new Direct Measure of Income funding arrangements by 2029.
- To make available to all independent schools, information on structural adjustments and planning for structural adjustments as a result of projects and initiatives undertaken at selected schools.

PART 3 – FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

Payment amount

30. Commonwealth funding for the Fund is provided through Part 5 of the Act. Section 70 of the Act provides that the Minister may determine an amount of financial assistance that is payable for a year to a non-government representative body for a non-government school.
31. Payments will be paid through state and territory treasuries to pass to the NGRB. Funding will be administered by the NGRB to its represented non-government schools, in accordance with this Agreement.
32. The following table describes the estimated funding amount for 2020. Payment amounts for 2020-2029 are subject to annual appropriation, ministerial determination for the purposes of section 70 of the Act, and the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) indexation factor applied to amounts from 2021 to 2029 as set out in paragraph 25B(2)(b) of the Regulation and section 11A of the Act.

	2020
Choice and Affordability Fund funding (\$)	8,924,507

33. The Government has committed to review the SRS indexation factor by 2023.
34. For the purposes of making a section 70 determination, in addition to the matters listed in subsection 25B(1) of the Regulation, the Minister may have regard to advice from NGRBs or the national representative body for a sector on their preferred state and territory level distribution of funding for 2020 or any subsequent year. Advice to vary the distribution for 2020 must be provided before Agreements are finalised. Advice to vary the distribution for 2021 or a

subsequent year must be provided at least by the end of August of the year prior to the variation unless otherwise agreed with the Secretary.

35. The department will confirm the payment amounts to NGRBs by October each year for the following year (e.g. confirmation by October 2020 for the payment amounts for 2021), once the SRS indexation factor for the year is known and the Minister has considered any advice from the national representative body or NGRB to vary the state and territory level distribution provided in accordance with paragraph 34.
36. The department will publish annually on its website the final distribution of funding at a state and territory level, based on the amounts the Minister has determined are payable for an NGRB for each year by 30 June the following year.

Use of funding

37. NGRBs and non-government schools are to use funding in line with the Guidelines. NGRBs must require non-government schools to provide assurance through the annual reporting and financial statement arrangements that distributed funding has been used for the purposes it was provided.
38. To ensure support for regional schools during transition to the Direct Measure of Income for capacity to contribute, and in accordance with paragraph 23 of the Guidelines, the NGRB must ensure that funding as specified in the following table is provided for regional assistance. Note, the figures in this table will be revised annually to reflect final SRS indexation factors and distribution variations provided in accordance with paragraph 34.

QLD	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Regional transition assistance	3,940,369	4,074,342	4,212,870	4,356,108	4,504,214	4,657,358	4,815,708	4,979,442	5,148,744	5,323,800

39. Subject to the requirements contained in section 31 of the Regulation and in the Guidelines which must be complied with, as well as the compulsory requirement to provide the regional assistance specified in paragraph 38 above, transition assistance (priority b)) and special circumstances funding (priority c)), NGRBs have discretion to spend Choice and Affordability funding over the period 2020 to 2029 in order to best achieve the priorities of the Fund according to their own circumstances. For avoidance of doubt, expenditure of some or all of the funds received may be spent in later years, in order to best achieve the priorities of the Fund.
40. Any interest earned on the financial assistance must be spent, or committed to be spent, in the same way as the financial assistance.

PART 4 – REPORTING AND THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Annual reports

41. The NGRB will submit an annual report in accordance with the Guidelines and the template at Attachment B.

Payment schedule

42. For 2020, 85 per cent of the 2020 allocation for the NGRB will be paid following signing of the Agreement. The balance of 15 per cent of the 2020 allocation is expected to be paid in late 2020, subject to appropriation.
43. For 2021 to 2029, payments will be made in January and August, each payment being approximately 50 per cent of the year's annual allocation. An additional payment will be made before 30 June for the purposes of making adjustment payments, including for indexation for the previous year if required. In accordance with paragraph 35 above, NGRBs will be advised of payments in October for the following year. Timing of the payment scheduled for January 2021 is subject to appropriation.
44. The NGRB agrees to and accepts the reporting and payment schedule at Table 1. Unless otherwise agreed to by the Secretary in writing, the NGRB will submit documentation according to the reporting and payment schedule of the Fund below.

Table 1. Reporting and expected payment schedule of the Choice and Affordability Fund

Report	Submission date	Payment date ¹
2020-2029 Agreement		Following signing of Agreement
-		Late 2020
-	-	January 2021
2020 Annual Report	By 30 June 2021	August 2021
<i>Reporting and payment schedule continues in the same pattern until October 2029</i>		
2029 Annual Report	By 30 June 2030	-

- indicates no reporting requirement or payment applicable

1. Payment dates reflect the department's process timeframes and are indicative only and may be subject to change and do not factor in state or territory government payment processes.

Note: From 2021, an additional payment may be schedule prior to 30 June if required. NGRBs will be advised of payment timing and amounts in October for the following year in accordance with paragraph 35.

PART 5 – SIGNATURES

Signed for and on behalf of the Secretary of the
Department of Education, Skills and
Employment by:

Signed for and on behalf of Independent
Schools Queensland Ltd by:



Mark Sawade

First Assistant Secretary
Funding and Data Collection Group



David Robertson

Executive Director

Date of signature:

16 July 2020

Date of signature: 15 July 2020

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