



Education – reprioritisation

Strengthening non-government schools funding integrity

The Australian Government will strengthen policy and financial assurance and compliance to ensure funding for non-government schools is used appropriately for school education.

This proposal safeguards the Australian Government’s significant investment in school education by strengthening and expanding the Department of Education’s regulatory assurance and compliance activities to prevent, detect and respond to non-compliance and fraud in the non-government school sector.

Why is this important?

The Australian Government should have a clear line of sight on how public funding is spent in schools.

The Government will invest \$16.7 billion in non-government schools, which is part of the \$27.3 billion in recurrent funding that will be provided for all schools in 2023.

While the amount of funding invested in our schools is important, how it is used to support educational outcomes for all students is more important.

Schools must comply with the requirements of the *Australian Education Act 2013*, to be fit and proper persons, financially viable, and not operate for profit.

By taking a more active regulatory approach, the Government will ensure the significant investment made each year is protected and appropriately used for the intended purpose of school education.

Who will benefit?

All students should have positive educational outcomes from the funding the Government invests in school education.

Commonwealth funding supports around 900 non-government approved authorities throughout Australia, representing approximately 2,900 non-government schools with over 1.4 million students.

The funding invested in our schools should drive real improvements in student learning outcomes and well-being, particularly for young Australians from disadvantaged backgrounds.

How much will it cost?

Strengthening the policy and financial assurance and compliance oversight in the non-government school sector will save \$1.9 million over 4 years from 2023-24 and \$1.1 million per year ongoing by recovering overpayments and improving funding integrity.