

IEUA
Independent Education Union of Australia

**Submission to the review of the socio-economic
status (SES) score methodology**

February 2018



Comments

1. The Independent Education Union of Australia (IEUA) is pleased to have the opportunity to make a submission to review of socio-economic score methodology.
2. The IEUA is the federally registered union that represents workers, including teachers, principals, and school support staff, in Catholic, other faith-based and community independent schools across all the states and territories of Australia. While the majority of members of the IEUA are teachers, the membership of the IEUA also consists of workers engaged as teacher aides, administrative staff, gardeners, cleaners and caterers.
3. The IEUA has long argued for and supported school funding arrangements and measures that are: needs-based, transparent and equitable.
4. Further, the IEUA has consistently argued since the development of, consideration of and implementation of the SES methodology for the purposes of school funding in the late 1990s that the measure needs to be more robust, appropriately responsive to economic trends and data and utilize the highest quality and widest possible spectrum of data available to make the assessment of SES.
5. The IEUA supports the nature of the review being undertaken and urges that detail and structures of any changes to the measure be made publicly available and accessible.
6. In relation to a new 'future index' the IEUA would be concerned about the robustness of any data that is provided for the purpose of enrolment. For example, the requirements of only a self-assessment declaration; the potential for widely variable outcomes depending on the interpretation by individuals of their profession/ employment; and the currency of the data which in many instances can be up to 6 years out of date from the time of collection at enrolment to its utilization in a funding index.
7. The IEUA rejects the notion that the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) could provide an alternative measure for student socio-economic status. The IEUA notes that ICSEA was constructed as a measure of educational advantage, not socio-economic advantage. DEEWR has

repeatedly confirmed their view that ICSEA is fit for the purpose that it was created for in relation to the MySchool website and NAPLAN testing; however, it was not constructed to be fit for an allocative instrument with respect to needs based funding for schools

Chris Watt
Federal Secretary
Independent Education Union of Australia
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