



MEDIA STATEMENT

To Sheradyn Holderhead / Advertiser
From Garry Le Duff
Ref **Independent school fees**
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RESPONSIBLE RISES IN SCHOOL FEES FOR 2012

Fees at South Australia's Independent schools in 2012 will rise by between 2.1 and 8.8 per cent in order to meet the rising cost of education, while some schools will not increase fees at all.

Garry Le Duff, the Executive Director of the Association of Independent Schools of SA (AISSA), said the rises are in line with previous years and the result of rising costs common to all schools, regardless of sector.

The latest Education Resources Index (September, all sectors, Adelaide) reveals rises of 6.7 per cent for pre- and primary schools and 7.3 per cent for secondary schools.

Mr Le Duff said the size of fee rises depended on the current level of development and strategic expenditure at the school. The quanta of the fee rises depend on base fee levels. The 8.8 per cent rise corresponded to \$372 in increased fees for that school.

Among the cost drivers are teacher salaries and training, curriculum compliance and information technology, he said.

The cost of utilities - electricity, water and insurance expenses – are imposing increasing burdens on schools across the entire education sector, said Mr Le Duff.

"All schools work hard to ensure sound financial management with sensitivity to family budgets, while meeting the high expectations of parents," he said.

"Responsible increases in fees ensure continuous improvement in education to meet parents' expectations and attract and retain the best available teaching talent at Independent schools." Overall, South Australian school fees remain below those of the eastern states.

The roll-out of the Australian Curriculum and the new SACE also impose additional costs in compliance and teacher training. All Independent schools are not-for-profit and are required by legislation to remain financially viable while devoting all revenue to education services.

They engage parents and school communities to help fund the cost of running the school and these contributions, along with those of countless volunteers, are indispensable. Parents are the primary source of funding for many Independent schools. In some schools, parents provide as much as 85 percent of school revenue.

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