MEDIA STATEMENT
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A FAIR DEAL FOR NEEDY FAMILIES, SAY NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL PARENTS

Non-government school parents and communities are for the first time working together during a State election to seek a better funding deal from the political parties for families and students most in need.

State funding to South Australian non-government schools is the second-worst per student in the nation and the message is to reverse a decline over recent years and return South Australia to the national average.

We have sought this commitment from both major political parties.

We are seeking a fair deal for all students on school card, students with disabilities, students with special learning needs and indigenous students, regardless of whether they attend a government or a non-government school.

Parents and principals from clusters of schools in each State electorate are meeting local candidates to inform them of the message that, overall, receive about half the public funding (Federal and State combined) provided to students in government schools.

Non-government schools educate 86,000 South Australians (33 percent of total enrolments).

Non-government school growth is strongest in outer suburban electorates.

For example, in 2000 there were 4584 students enrolled at non-government schools in the electorate of Wright; this has increased by 16 percent to 5318 in 2006.

Non-government schools in South Australia serve a large number of families with significant financial and educational needs. This is especially so for students with disabilities.

South Australia’s 202 Catholic and Independent schools have presented a joint submission for increased State funding and the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia and the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools together met both the Premier and Opposition Leader.

And, also last month, an unprecedented meeting of more than 180 of the State’s Catholic and Independent school principals met to plan and confirm the submission.

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