INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS FACE SEVERE FINANCIAL RISK WITHOUT SCHOOLS BILL

Independent schools in South Australia are greatly relieved that the Senate has this morning passed the Schools Assistance Bill, paving the way for desperately-needed Commonwealth grants due in January.

Association of Independent Schools of SA Executive Director Garry Le Duff said some smaller schools were facing severe financial risk if they did not receive their funding.

Fifty percent of the year’s annual Commonwealth grants fall due in January. Commonwealth grants to Independent schools augment revenue generated from school fees.

Mr Le Duff said Independent schools continue, however, to be very concerned at elements of the legislation, in particular requirements around the adoption of the national curriculum and the publication of private income information.

"We call on the Federal Government to work closely with our schools as we deal with those elements of the Bill that need attention,” said Mr Le Duff.

"The best way to do that is through regulations within the legislation.

"We will be knocking on the legislators’ doors in the New Year.”

Contact: Garry Le Duff, Tel: 8179 1402(W), 8339 2106(A/H) or 0419 806 419