CAMPAIGN PRAISES PARENTS FOR $2.9 BILLION COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

A South Australian metropolitan and regional print advertising campaign that begins today in The Advertiser praises parents for their annual $2.9 billion commitment to Independent schools across Australia.

Launched by the Association of Independent Schools of SA and Independent schools around the State, it will run over the vital final days of the Federal election campaign.

Executive Director Garry Le Duff said Independent schools want to raise awareness about how they are funded and why parents deserve support and public funding from governments.

“We make no bones about it – when it comes to this election we want parents and friends to be proud and loud about their school and Independent schools in general,” said Mr Le Duff.

“We are heartily sick of politically-motivated misinformation on public funding in Independent schools. It’s time for facts.”

The AISSA campaign highlights that, on average, an Independent school student receives just half the total public funding spent on a government school student. On top of this, parents fund more than 85 percent of the costs of Independent school buildings and infrastructure.

“Every parent deserves government assistance to educate their child,” said Mr Le Duff.

“Government funding of Independent schools is money well spent. Independent schools educate more than 440,000 students and help build strong communities across the country.”

To back its strategy, the Association has circulated to its 96 member school communities parent information packs on the funding of Independent schools and a charter for public funding.

Every candidate has been given a briefing pack on the Independent sector and the pressing needs of students and schools, particularly in disability and primary school funding.

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"We urge people to think about education when they vote and we will continue to analyse the policies on offer and alert parents and families to the likely benefits and impacts," Mr Le Duff said.

"Our campaign is not directed at any political party and we agree with the position of the two major parties to maintain the current Federal funding formula for non-government schools.

"We expect the party that forms the next government to honour its promises.

"What is disappointing to date is that neither major party has made any commitment on the big issues and the significant resource needs of schools, particularly for students with disabilities, primary schooling and early childhood services."

Mr Le Duff said the education policies of some minor parties were a disgrace.

"We are appalled at the Greens education policy," Mr Le Duff said.

"It threatens to wind back the clock to destroy parental choice, cut non-government school funding, create a funding hit-list against certain schools, force up school fees, reduce school choice for parents and duplicate existing State policy on the establishment of new schools.

"It is intolerable and voters need to know what comes with the full Green policy package."

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

Attachment
Copy of the advertisement from the campaign
If you would like a PDF emailed to you, please contact Lauren Slattery (lslattery@ballpr.com.au) or Rob Ball (rball@ballpr.com.au) at Ball Public Relations on 08 8271 4377.