



Christian Schools Australia

CSA represents a fellowship of more than 150 schools Australia wide.

Our schools are partnerships of professional educators, local churches and Christian families.

We are committed to providing an excellent, affordable and accessible education which builds on the foundation of Christian beliefs and values.

We are working collaboratively with local communities and government authorities to build stronger communities through Christian schooling.

Growth

The 2007 election takes place amid a time of dynamic developments in education policy.

The last decade has seen school choice become viable for more Australian families.

The growth of affordable faith-based schools has been a big part of this development.

The support which enables families to make schooling choices on the basis, among other things, of faith is one of the most compelling examples of Australia's success as a tolerant and mature society.

Opportunity and responsibility

We do not take lightly the opportunity nor the responsibility which goes along with the policy of funded choice.

We welcome the fact that this principle is now upheld by both major parties without demur.

Partners in excellence

Meeting the diverse educational needs of our growing and vibrant nation requires cooperative effort.

It requires clear agreed objectives, a commitment to quality, community engagement, investment of significant resources and above all a partnership between all involved.

The current election provides an opportunity to advance these goals.

This survey

CSA maintains a regular productive dialogue with policy makers from all parties.

This document reflects our discussions with Government and Opposition over the medium term.

In September a brief summary of CSA's position on key issues was sent to the Minister and Shadow Minister asking for their responses.

The responses are on the form agreed by the respective parties and are current as at the release date recorded on the bottom left.

Periodically we will ask each party to update their responses.

The current positions will be available on our website at all times.

Our website also contains issues papers providing more details on CSA's policies and objectives.

We hope this will be a useful contribution to informing the critical choice facing the nation on November 24.

Stephen O'Doherty
Chief Executive Officer

Peter Crimmins
Director, Policy and Research



CSA's position

Students with Disability should attract the **same additional funding**, depending on their level of need, **regardless of sector**.

Aims:

To provide equitable choice for students with disability.

To recognise and redress the serious shortfall in support for students with disability in non-government schools.

Australian Labor Party

Labor believes students with disabilities should have the right be able to fully participate in schooling.

Where students with disabilities require special support, and consistent with **needs-based funding principles that apply to all schools, governments should share the responsibility** to provide these **additional resources** to build the capacity for schools and teachers to accommodate these students.

Liberal National Coalition

Support in place through targeted funds.

Results of **portability study** not announced.



Fair and certain funded choice

CSA's position

CSA supports the

- **SES** model
- **Quadrennium funding**
- Annual **supplementation**

CSA recommends

- A change in the SES 'curve' to remove anomalies giving rise to funding maintenance and funding guarantee.
- Funding guarantees should be replaced with funding maintenance.

Policy aims: to support funded choice.

To maintain a system for calculating the funding of schools which is based on clear policy objectives of fairness and allows certainty over the medium term.

Detailed policy papers at csa.edu.au

Australian Labor Party

As part of its Education Revolution, a Rudd Labor Government has committed to:

- Adopt the existing Socio-Economic Status (SES) funding model for the next funding quadrennium, from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2012; and
- Make the four year 2005-2008 Funding Agreement and the current schools indexation formula its minimum starting point for the Commonwealth's negotiations with the States, Territories, Catholic and Independent school systems.

This is a minimum commitment of **\$42 billion**, to which a Rudd Labor Government will only make additions, not subtractions.

There will be **no hit list** or reduced funding to any non government school.

Liberal National Coalition

Government will **retain current SES model** for funding non government schools as well as current supplementation and **four year funding agreements**.

A **number of reforms** to be included in the new quadrennium including:

- introducing national **teacher training and registration standards**;
- introducing core **national standards for curricula** in key subjects including English, maths, physics, chemistry, biology and Australian history for Years 11 and 12 and in English, maths, science and Australian history for Year 10;
- **external assessment** (such as public examinations) as part of **Year 12 certificates** and common descriptions of levels of achievement;
- introducing greater **principal autonomy**;
- introducing **performance-based pay for teachers** to encourage and reward excellent teaching; and
- **reporting school and student performance** against national benchmarks (including literacy and numeracy results), with school and state comparisons.



CSA's position

Capital Grants (BGA) funding should at least be maintained in real terms.

The **Investing In Our Schools Program (IOSP)** should be **retained** as an additional and separate provision allowing individual grants for small projects outside of the mainstream capital grants (BGA) process.

Additional capital funds should be available on a needs basis for regionally or locally significant projects.

Consideration should be given to a federal, or joint federal/state, **interest subsidy scheme**.

***Aims:** To ensure a fair system of capital support for new, needy and developing non Government schools.*

To provide incentives for local parent and church investment in community facilities.

Australian Labor Party

Labor will have a **Schools Infrastructure Funding Program**, the details of which are yet to be released.

Labor has already committed to an additional \$2.5 billion for **vocational education facilities** for years 9, 10, 11 and 12.

\$62.5M for **School Resource Sharing** plan between government and non government schools.

Liberal National Coalition

No change announced to general Capital Grants program for non government schools.

IOSP is to be continued, details yet to be announced.



Indigenous student funding

CSA's position

Maximum General Recurrent Grants funding (**70% AGSRC**) for **all indigenous students** in all non government schools.

Aim:

To ensure the maximum re-sources are available to support the education of indigenous students regardless of their location.

Australian Labor Party

Funding for **200 teachers** for 2,000 indigenous students in 60 NT communities.

Universal **early childhood education** for all indigenous 4 year olds.

Teacher professional development to support **Individual Learning Plans** for indigenous students.

\$21.9 million to expand intensive **literacy and numeracy programs** for indigenous students.

Providing \$16.9 million to roll out the **Australian Early Development Index** for all students in their first year of school, including funding to ensure the Index is tailored to specific needs of Indigenous children.

Invest \$32.5 million to roll out the Brotherhood of St. Laurence **Home Interaction Program** in 50 disadvantaged communities across Australia, including many Indigenous communities, to help parents prepare their children for school.

Liberal National Coalition

A variety of programs already in place.

Major initiatives about to commence in NT.

An additional \$214M in the 2007 budget for indigenous students including **\$50 M** to boost accommodation for Indigenous students in **boarding schools**.

Federal Government to support **preschool for 3 and 4 year olds**.



Rural and remote students

CSA's position

Additional funding needed for **Country Areas Program**. **Supports Government** initiative of **loadings** for rural and remote non government schools.

Aim:

To ensure that the special hardship applying to rural and remote students is recognised for additional funding support.

Australian Labor Party

Labor welcomed and **supported the legislation to provide loadings** to rural and remote non government schools earlier this year. Labor recognises that schools in rural, regional and remote Australia have different needs and are at a disadvantage so far as the cost of education is concerned compared to their metropolitan counterparts.

Liberal National Coalition

20%, 10% and 5% **loadings** on GRGs for ABS identified **rural and remote non government schools**.

Additional support of up to \$10,000 for drought affected schools.



CSA's position

All National **Curriculum** initiatives should be done in **consultation with education authorities and peak bodies** government and non government.

Goals should be agreed at a national level. They should be written broadly to allow local expression and encourage innovation while meeting nationally agreed standards.

Year 12 certificates in each jurisdiction should report on agreed national standards and be fully cross-accredited.

***Aims:** to provide agreed goals and standards of achievement befitting the needs of a modern mature economy.*

To achieve an appropriate balance between national goals and the local expression of those goals, engaging and serving Australia's diverse communities .

Australian Labor Party

Establish a **National Curriculum Board** to work collaboratively with government and non government education authorities to develop consistent curricula, **K to year 12** in **Maths, Science, English, and History** for all Australian students.

Labor has also indicated that Geography and Languages will be the next priority for a National Curriculum.

Liberal National Coalition

Committed to the development of **nationally consistent curricula** for **years 11 and 12** in English, Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and History.

National curriculum being developed in **Australian History** for **years 9 and 10**.



CSA's position

Free, fast **broadband** access for all Australian schools.

The burden of payment for **Copyright** for school education use should be removed from schools and systems.

Aims:

To ensure all students and their teachers have access to world-class technology for learning, and are equipped to engage with it in a positive and beneficial way.

Australian Labor Party

\$4.7B to establish the **National Broadband** over 5 years for **98% of Australians**.

A National Broadband network will provide enhanced capacity for e-learning.

Red-tape burden for **Copyright payments** for school education use to be eased.

The ALP announced 14 Nov. that it would provide **FTTP broadband access to 99%** of Australian school children with speeds up to 100 megabits per second.

\$1B for **school based computers** and access for **all 1M secondary students Yrs 9 to 12**.

Liberal National Coalition

Australia Connected: a \$958M package to deliver high speed broadband to rural and regional Australia. Continued support for e-Learning via **The Learning Federation (TLF)**.



CSA's position

Non government school students engaged in VET at the post compulsory level should receive the same **financial support and access to TAFE** and Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) as government school students.

Aims:

To ensure all students have equitable access to a range of opportunities to undertake accredited and certificated VET programs.

Australian Labor Party

\$2.5 billion over ten years for **Trades Training Centres** in schools including: \$500,000 to \$1.5M **capital** to build/upgrade trade training facilities in secondary schools

An additional \$84M for on the **job training** one day pw, 20 weeks per year.

Develop a **Job Ready Certificate** for VET students.

Liberal National Coalition

Established **Australian Technical Colleges**.

Merged ANTA funding into DEST programs.

VET in schools programs enable students to undertake school based apprenticeships and VET qualifications with RTOs.

The Prime Minister has announced the establishment of an **additional 100 Australian Technical Colleges** by a re-elected Coalition Government.



CSA's position

Synchronize and simplify financial and educational accountability requirements for all schools with **state/territory authorities**.

Aims:

To provide effective and efficient measures of accountability for the use of public funds without creating duplication of effort or unnecessary administrative burden.

Australian Labor Party

Labor will ensure that Commonwealth and State and Territory **arrangements are aligned to provide a coherent national approach to funding conditions**, mechanisms and accountabilities.

Public funding for all schools should be subject to schools meeting **quality standards** for curriculum and teaching, and planning arrangements that promote the **economic use of public resources** and accountability.

Liberal National Coalition

Financial questionnaire for all non government schools each year.

Non government schools required to sign a **Funding Agreement** before each quadrennium which includes an array of educational and other accountability requirements (see details under Coalition General Recurrent Grants policy).



CSA's position

3 yr olds or less Early Childhood Education (ECE) fees **tax deductible**.

4/5 yr olds **ECE funded entitlement** for up to 3 days per week.

Aims:

To recognise the critical importance of early childhood education.

To see the provision of additional investment with the aim of attaining universal access to early childhood education.

Australian Labor Party

Will invest \$450 million to provide **15 hours per week**, 40 weeks per year ECE for all **4 year olds**.

\$34M to educate/train 1,500 **ECE teachers**.

Halve **HECS debt** for 10,000 ECE teachers in disadvantaged areas.

Will build **260 new childcare centres**, on primary school sites where possible.

\$32.5M to rollout the Brotherhood of St Lawrence **Home Interaction Program** to help parents in disadvantaged communities get their kids ready to start school.

Will invest **\$16.9 million** to roll out the **Australian Early Development Index** nationally.

Liberal National Coalition

Federal Government provides support for child care.

Federal Government to support ECE for 3 and 4 year old **indigenous children** through COAG agreement.



Performance pay for teachers

CSA's position

Where performance or merit pay is mandated by government policy it should be **fully funded** – i.e. there should be no additional cost burden on school for implementing this policy so that the affordability of schools is not adversely impacted.

The specific model for performance pay should be spelled out with opportunity for full consultation prior to any implementation.

Where merit-pay is considered it should be on the basis of additional teacher qualifications and professional learning.

Aims: To see agreed goals for rewarding and enhancing quality teaching.

Australian Labor Party

Labor believes the Government's approach to so-called performance pay based on standardised test results is fundamentally flawed.

Labor believes that teachers should be rewarded for what they teach and where they teach. Labor seeks to reward quality teaching based on continued and accredited **professional development**, working in rural, remote and **disadvantaged communities** as well as incentives for teachers of **literacy and numeracy, maths and Science**.

Liberal National Coalition

No specific model has been announced – an expert consultant has been engaged to consider and consult on possible models for trialing in Australian schools.