



**Independent  
Schools Victoria**

# Media Release

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## Greens Funding Policy 'Catastrophic for Education'

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More than a million students at non-government schools around Australia will lose all or part of their government funding under the Australian Greens' education funding policies.<sup>1</sup> Total funding lost to Australian non-government schools, with an enrolment of 1.2 million students, would be over \$1.5 billion a year.

Under the Greens policies 691 non-government schools in Victoria with 305,559 students would lose between \$383 million and \$456 million.

Independent Schools Victoria, Chief Executive, Michelle Green said today that the Greens' policies had not been carefully thought through and the consequences could be catastrophic for education in Australia.

The policy of ending 'public subsidies to the very wealthiest private schools'<sup>2</sup> would result in more than 100,000 students across Australia losing funding of up to \$666 million overnight. Up to 67 Victorian schools would lose between \$143,466,775 and \$227,587,744.

A New South Wales Greens policy document<sup>3</sup> identifies the 79 'wealthiest private schools in New South Wales'. Independent Schools Victoria has used this to calculate the loss that would be suffered by non-government schools around Australia.

The Greens also want to take Commonwealth funding for all other non-government schools back to 2003-04 levels,<sup>4</sup> which would result in a loss of government funding of \$950 million. In Victoria more than 600 schools would lose between \$228,746,600 and 239,908,817.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://greens.org.au/policies/care-for-people/education>

<sup>2</sup> 64. invest the money saved from ending public subsidies to the very wealthiest private schools into a national equity funding program for public schools.

<sup>3</sup> <http://nsw.greens.org.au/content/putting-public-back-school>

<sup>4</sup> 65. support the maintenance of the total level of Commonwealth funding for private schools at 2003-04 levels (excluding that re-allocated under previous clauses), indexed for inflation. <http://greens.org.au/policies/care-for-people/education>

**For more information, or to interview Michelle Green  
Contact Brian M. Peck on 0437 515 505**

Many of the schools that would lose all government funding under the Greens' policies are special schools and schools catering for Indigenous students.

Ms Green said the funding cuts would be felt by non-government schools in every federal electorate in all states and territories.

'It is likely that Members of Parliament will be asked by parents how their children's non-government schools will survive when they lose government funding and others have their funding cut overnight.

'Parents of children at government schools are likely to ask how their schools will cope with an immediate huge influx of students forced out of Independent and Catholic schools.

Both Prime Minister Gillard and the Minister for Schooling, Mr Garrett, have been pledging for more than a year that that no school will lose a dollar as a result of the Review of School Funding but in July the Greens will hold the balance of power in the Senate. If the Gillard government is not vigilant, the Greens could force through their policies adversely affecting schooling,' Ms Green said.