

ISNZ Newsletter

Confidential to ISNZ Member Schools

June 2009, Issue 3

“Robbing private schools of public funding makes everyone poorer”

As we celebrate and applaud the government’s injection of additional funding for the independent school sector we have also been exposed to the vehement reaction to it from some quarters. In our quest to educate the wider community of the benefits of retaining and growing the independent school sector I was somewhat heartened by a recent article that appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald. It was written by the debating captain at Sydney Grammar School who, in a recent moot, opposed the proposition that public funding of private education is unconscionable. It was extremely well written and for your interest I have included this excerpt from the article:

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“Whether public funding of private education is unconscionable is a trade-off between different values and consequences. There are moral trade-offs and practical trade-offs, and for such funding to be ‘unconscionable’ the benefits that would arise from ending it would have to outweigh the costs.

Both morally and practically, they do not.

Giving parents the choice of where their children should go to school has educational benefits. Parents know their children well enough to know what kind of education best suits their needs. Schools which look after those individual needs can substantially improve a child’s education.

Independent schools which emphasise different values and beliefs give parents that choice. They may be schools of different religions, different educational philosophies, like the Montessori and Steiner schools, or cater to different groups of students, like children with emotional or behavioural disorders or teenage mothers who need to complete their education part-time.

That moral cost ought to be borne in mind.

It’s also worthwhile asking why the government funds *any* school. Primarily, it is because education is a public good. Education benefits not only the individual, but society as well, through wealth creation or other benefits to our community if a person becomes an artist or a builder or a doctor.

When we are deciding how to spend the money for education, we should aim to create the greatest possible public good. In education, there is an obvious balance to be struck between giving people as much choice as possible and ensuring good quality public education.

But stopping all public funding of private schools would radically push this balance so far away from choice as to effectively prevent the vast majority of families from having that choice. It would create a situation where the greatest public good is not being achieved because that balance between choice and standards is not being met.

The other moral ‘choice’ is the argument that if parents choose to send their children to a non-government school rather than the comparatively free public schools, they should be the ones to foot the bill.

“Robbing private schools ...” cont’d

This seems fair on the surface, but if education is a public good, and we all benefit from everyone's education, then it follows that we should all be contributing to the cost of that education, regardless of which school each family chooses.

In other words, if we stopped all public funding of private schools, it would be society that would be freeloading on those parents who paid school fees. Removing public funding would punish those parents who substantially contribute to their own child's education and help to lift the funding burden from the government.

Practically, the first effect is that children would be forced from the private system, families would be denied their choice and greater burden would be placed on the public system. The current distribution of funds probably isn't the right way to achieve the best balance, but ending all funding to non-government schools is not the solution...

...Most private schools would only have two options if funding was removed: close or to raise fees by thousands of dollars per student per year.

The resulting flood of children back into the government sector would mean many millions of extra public money - if every child from the private system moved over - removed from an already stretched public purse.

The second effect is the intensification of a two-tiered education system. There would be a shortage of private schools, which would create more competition among parents to secure places, which would drive up fees already rising to compensate for the loss of government funding.

Only the very rich would be able to afford the astronomical fees at the remaining schools. If you think there is already a 'class divide' in the education system, just wait until funding is removed from non-government schools.

The third major effect would be the creation of an educational monopoly for the government. It would not be good for innovation and reform in a system that clearly needs it.

We need a better balance between choice and standards in education. But the unconscionable thing - for all Australians - would be to stop public funding from reaching private schools.”

Sam Molloy, Sydney Grammar School

Government and Parliament

It was announced in the May 2009 Government Budget that an additional \$35 million would be allocated to the independent school sector over a period of four years. An allocated \$5 million has been budgeted for 2009/10 and an estimated \$10 million per annum for the following three years.

	Primary Education	Secondary Education
2009/10	\$3 million	\$2 million (Budgeted)
2010/11	\$6 million	\$4 million (Estimated)
2011/12	\$6 million	\$4 million (Estimated)
2012/13	\$6 million	\$4 million (Estimated)

In response to our request to meet with the Hon Heather Roy to discuss the specifics of the additional funding announced in the Budget, we have been informed that the Minister is currently working through various options and that she would like to hold off on meeting with us until she is able to discuss specifics.

We have reiterated to the Associate Minister that the resounding preference from ISNZ Member Schools is that the additional funding be distributed in the same way as current government funding. We have also asked for an explanation of how the level of funding to each of the Primary and Secondary sectors has been calculated.

My apologies that we are unable to give you more specifics at this stage. We know that many of you are currently working on budgets for next year and beyond. We would caution you against factoring in the additional funding to do with as you please. Despite our vociferous protestations we may be looking at “tagged” additional funding perhaps, as Hon Heather Roy has discussed, in the form of a scholarship scheme. We shall inform you of specifics as soon as they come to hand.

At our next meeting with the Hon Heather Roy we also hope to begin discussions on the other issues we have raised in the government communications paper. We shall keep you informed of progress.

Government and Parliament cont'd

You may have read in various publications during the past week of the Minister of Education's warning to integrated schools that there will be government intervention where schools are demanding unjustified, large voluntary donations from parents, as well as compulsory fees. This very issue was presented to the government as part of our government communication plan.

We would encourage all ISNZ Member Schools to invite local MPs, Education spokesmen, Cabinet Ministers, the Education Minister and Associate Minister, and the Prime Minister to various occasions, openings of buildings etc. In the interest of educating our politicians about independent schooling, creating public awareness and raising the profile of ISNZ Member Schools, and breaking down some of the myths about private schooling, working with politicians from all political parties may long term help to develop a multi-partisan approach to government funding.

I would be grateful if ISNZ Member Schools could inform the ISNZ Office of any occasions where politicians have visited their school so that we can make reference to the school and the event in our publications. This information would also be useful in developing our continued relationships with education spokesmen and politicians from different political parties.

Education Amendment Bill

Please find below the link to the Education Amendment Bill for your interest.

This Bill amends the Education Act 1989. The Bill has two broad areas of policy focus:

To introduce information matching between the New Zealand Teachers Council and the Ministry of Education to identify individuals teaching in schools without registration.

To reduce compliance costs relating to Police vetting.

Minor policy changes are designed to enhance the efficient governance of the compulsory education system and to enhance the efficient administration of the compulsory and tertiary education systems. Changes to existing provisions will clarify some definitions and correct minor technical and drafting errors in the Act. These changes will help organise education efficiently and improve education legislation.

http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2009/0025-1/latest/DLM1956401.html?search=ts_bill_Education+Amendment+Bill_resel&sr=1

Swine Flu update

ISNZ Member Schools have been kept fully informed of Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education guidelines to contain and manage this influenza. The Ministry of Education has been continually updating its website and will continue with daily updates on: www.minedu.govt.nz/PandemicUpdates.

Medical information is on the Ministry of Health website www.moh.govt.nz/influenza-a-h1n1. Travel information is available on www.safetravel.govt.nz

ISNZ Strategic Plan

The ISNZ Executive continues to work on the strategic plan for 2009-2011. The Executive has identified four key objectives in the ISNZ strategic development:

- 1 To implement the advocacy/government communications strategy with successful outcomes that will include the promotion of a bipartisan government support of equitable funding to independent schools.
- 2 To review and improve services and benefits to members.
- 3 To provide effective communication and promotion of ISNZ through branding/differentiation and positioning in the education sector.
- 4 To provide and facilitate relevant ongoing professional development opportunities for ISNZ Member Schools.

Subcommittees from the executive have been formed to develop an implementation plan that will achieve the abovementioned, identified key objectives.

ISNZ Annual Conference

The 17th Annual Independent Schools of New Zealand conference was held at the Duxton Hotel, Wellington 29-30 May 2009. The annual ASBA and AHIS Conferences were also held at the Duxton Hotel on 27-28 May 2009 and 28-29 May 2009 respectively.

Most of the feedback we received was extremely positive particularly in regard to the organisation, format and content of the conference programme. It was unfortunate and regrettable that the conference dates clashed with Queen's Birthday Weekend and we shall endeavour to secure venue space outside of a public holiday in the future. If there is any aspect of the conference, or matter pertaining to ISNZ and its operations, that people feel strongly about, we are more than happy to take guidance and advice.

Soft copies of the speaker presentations have been emailed to all Board Chairmen, Heads and Bursars for distribution to fellow Board members and staff.

John Taylor, who gave a presentation on fundraising, has said that he would happily work with our member schools on a consultative basis. His contact details are available from the ISNZ office.

The 2010 ISNZ Annual Conference will be held in Queenstown Friday 27–Saturday 28 August at the Millennium Hotel. Please note there will not be separate ASBA, AHIS and ISNZ conferences in 2010. We will run one conference over two days with breakout sessions designed to meet the needs of different personnel within ISNZ Member Schools. We look forward to furnishing you with more information as the conference programme is developed.

Excellence in Teaching Awards

The Excellence in Teaching Awards for Exceptional Professional Performance were presented at the conference by the Vice Chancellor of Victoria University Wellington, Professor Pat Walsh. The recipients of the 2009 awards are:

- Tasha Gover, Kristin School, Year 0-6 category
- Sandie MacLeod-Smith, St Cuthbert's College, Year 7-10 category
- Kathy Cron, Rangī Ruru Girls' School, Year 11-13 category.

We wish to thank Mrs Gail Thomson, the independent adjudicator, for all her work in evaluating the candidates for these awards. Our thanks also to Distinction and Spacific Yearbooks for their continued support and sponsorship of the Excellence in Teaching Awards.



Left to Right—Sandie MacLeod-Smith, Tasha Gover, Kathy Cron

The Heads of the Independent Schools Scholarship Trust (HISST)

Financial assistance is offered to Principals and staff of Independent Schools of New Zealand for current research and/or study that advance the value of independent schooling in New Zealand.

The 2009 recipients of HISST grants to the value of \$3500 each are:

- Julie Earl, St Peter's School, Cambridge. Julie's research is based around Curriculum Mapping as a tool to reframe and refocus teaching and learning and to create a "hub" for whole school improvement. Julie will attend the pre-conference academies and the conference on Curriculum Mapping in Utah in July.
- Jo Rittey, Rangī Ruru Girls' School, Christchurch. Jo's research will explore ways in which Web 2.0 technologies (Second Life, Wikis, Blogs, Podcasting) can enhance language learning as well as observing and trialing task-based language learning.

HR Seminar

ISNZ will be hosting an HR Seminar on Thursday 30 July at the Wellington Airport Conference Centre 9.30 am–4.30 pm. This day long seminar is open to any person in an ISNZ Member School with HR responsibilities, eg academic or ancillary staff or board member or contracted personnel. The seminar focus for 2009 will cover the following topics:

- Recruitment & Retention: Attracting the Right People
- Legal Issues: including recent and upcoming changes to the law
- Employee Values Propositions
- Performance Appraisal and Methodologies
- Leadership Capability: Identifying Good Leaders
- Open Forum.

We hope that member schools will encourage their HR personnel to attend this seminar.

InHouse Advisory Services Database

In the past ISNZ has held a database of names of people who are willing to act in an advisory capacity to ISNZ Member Schools. We would like to update and grow this facility. If you or any one of your Board and/or staff members has expertise in a given area relevant to independent schooling and would be willing to offer help or advice to ISNZ members we would gratefully add those names to our database. I would be happy to discuss this with any interested parties otherwise all we need is the name of the person/ advisor, contact details and the areas of expertise that they would be happy to offer in an advisory capacity.

NEiTA Awards Nominations Open

Nominations have opened for the 2009-2010 round of the National Excellence in Teaching and Leadership Awards. These awards, which have been part of the New Zealand education scene for 13 years, are an ideal opportunity to show great teachers and leaders in our school communities that we appreciate them. NEiTA aims to acknowledge and honour teachers and leaders and the valuable role they play, and to also build the status of the profession. Over 2,500 early childhood education, primary, intermediate and secondary school teachers have been nominated for the awards over the last 13 years.

All teachers/leaders nominated receive a Certificate of Nomination, with 20 area representatives selected to go forward to receive Regional Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Leadership in Wellington next May. From these, ten teachers/leaders will receive National Awards at their schools or centres later next year.

National awardees will receive professional development grants from a pool totaling \$35,000. Two \$5000 and three \$2500 grants will each be made for excellence in teaching and for excellence in leadership.

Nomination forms can be completed online or forms can be downloaded from the NEiTA website www.neita.co.nz Forms are also available at schools and early childhood education centres nationwide, libraries, or can be obtained by contacting the NEiTA Foundation on **09 308 0576** or email mventer@asg.co.nz

This initiative is a great vehicle for the independent school sector to promote the calibre of teachers in ISNZ Member Schools. I do encourage member schools to put forward nominations.

Clarification of Organisation Names

There continues to be some confusion between ISNZ and the newly named ISEA, formerly ISTANZ. Please note that ISEA is not in any way associated with ISNZ. ISEA is a union group representing some teachers and support staff in some independent schools.

ISNZ Member Schools and the effects of the current economic climate

This week we have received the last of the online statistics returns from member schools. We are now in a position to work on the statistics analysis and will have this report to you as soon as possible. The statistics are showing a 3.58% decrease in the overall number of students attending ISNZ member schools for 2009.

Gold

Fuji Xerox New Zealand Ltd
Marsh Ltd

Silver

ASB Bank Ltd
Gallagher Security Management
Systems (Cardax)
Karndean International
Programmed Maintenance
Services
Renaissance Education Division
School Supplies
Spotless Services (NZ) Ltd

Bronze

3P Learning (Mathletics)
ACTIVboard NZ
Computing Directions Australia
Distinction
Education Personnel Ltd
Learning Network NZ
Lundia Shelving Ltd
Omnilink
Rent for Plus Education
Schoolgate
Specific Yearbooks Ltd
University of Cambridge
International Examinations

Deborah James
Executive Director

ISNZ Sponsors

We would like to acknowledge the wonderful contribution made by our sponsors at the conference, they add a colourful dimension to the conference and their promotion of the services and products they provide to schools is invaluable.

I would particularly like to thank Dean Rogers of Renaissance Education Division for his support throughout the conference. Dean very ably managed all the audio/visual requirements, his calm manner and willingness to help in any way was a godsend. Thank you Dean.

ISNZ places huge value on the sponsorship revenue generated each year. Without this income stream the membership levies would increase drastically. We have an obligation to our sponsors to ensure that there is a return on their investment with ISNZ. To this end I would ask that you give sponsors the opportunity to promote their product/services to you and that they be given the opportunity to tender/quote for current contracts.

Over the next five years I would like to see our sponsorship income increase significantly so that we can keep the membership levies as low as possible. We will not grow the sponsorship income unless sponsors can clearly see a return on their investment.

Board Chairman Appointments

We warmly congratulate the following people who have recently been appointed to the position of Board Chairman.

- Derek Firth: Dilworth School, Auckland
- Catherine Savage: Samuel Marsden Collegiate School & Samuel Marsden Collegiate School Whitby
- Philip Morgan: St Paul's Collegiate School.

We would like to particularly acknowledge the contribution of Mr John Shewan, retired Chairman of Samuel Marsden Collegiate School. John has been a wonderful advocate of independent schooling and has willingly given advice and shared his expertise in numerous areas of governance and operational management of schools. His wealth of knowledge and experience has been invaluable to so many ISNZ members. We wish John well in his future pursuits.

Principal Appointments

We warmly congratulate the following people who have recently, or are about to take up headship positions:

- Bradley Fenner: King's College, Auckland.
- Heather McRae: Diocesan School for Girls, Auckland
- Stephen Cole: St Kentigern College.

Brad and Heather have recently taken up their headship positions at King's College and Diocesan School for Girls respectively and we enjoyed welcoming them both to the ISNZ family at the recent AHIS and ISNZ conferences.

Stephen Cole will take up his position at St Kentigern College in Term Three. Stephen comes to us from his position as Headmaster at St Bede's Senior School in the United Kingdom. We look forward to welcoming him back to New Zealand and to the ISNZ family.

Congratulations

Gillian Eadie has been appointed as first general manager of the Confucius Institute, based at the University of Auckland.

The Institute, launched in 2007 and one of more than 150 worldwide, promotes Chinese language and culture while organising China-related activities in New Zealand.

A past principal of Samuel Marsden Collegiate School and Corran School, Mrs Eadie had her interest in the People's Republic sparked while visiting China in 2007 in a principals' delegation.