



THE  
**HAMILTON**  
AND ALEXANDRA COLLEGE

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Thursday, August 5, 2021

Dear College Parents,

**Changes to Commonwealth Funding for Regional Independent Schools**

You will be aware that both Federal and State Governments provide funding for non-government schools, with about 80% of this coming from the Commonwealth. The level of funding varies, depending on the need of the school community. The Government is changing the way it measures this need, moving from a census-based measure (SES) to a direct measure of the income (DMI) using Tax Office data.

The overall effect of this change is to reduce the share of non-government school funding going to Independent schools. Of particular concern to us is the fact that the biggest reductions to school funding resulting from the change from SES to DMI are to schools serving regional communities like ours.

When fully implemented, comparing projected SES funding with DMI, all regional independent schools will suffer an average reduction of \$766 per student per year, while all metropolitan independent schools will lose only a third of that - \$268 per student.

This threatens to undermine the Government's own stated intention to lift outcomes for young people in regional Australia. We are very concerned about this and I am sure you and other parents will be too.

Some points - endorsed by us - that have been well made in public debate are set out below:

- **Young people** in regional Australia deserve the best in education, not reduced funding.
- Country **parents** should have the choice of affordable independent education.
- Regional **communities** should not be stripped of millions of dollars of school funding.
- For all these reasons, there should be a cap on funding losses as schools transition to DMI

As things stand, our Commonwealth funding is projected to be some \$828.00 per student less in 2029 than it would be if the current funding scheme continued. Along with sixty similar schools across regional Australia, we are pressing the Government for remediation of this unfair impost and we seek your help through your networks and through contacting local Federal Parliamentarians to press for change to this unfair school funding policy.

We are not alone in facing this challenge. There are 180 regional schools outside the Catholic systemic schools sector which will receive less funding under DMI than with continuing SES. With well over 100,000 parents in regional Australia adversely affected, there is considerable potential for effective political action to remedy this situation. I am providing contact details below of Federal Parliamentary representatives whom you may want to contact to add to our school's efforts to have this policy changed.

---

[WWW.HAMILTONCOLLEGE.VIC.EDU.AU](http://WWW.HAMILTONCOLLEGE.VIC.EDU.AU)

**Senior and Middle Years** 1 Chaucer St Hamilton Vic 3300 E [reception@hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au](mailto:reception@hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au) P +613 5572 1355  
**Junior School** Cnr Kent Rd and McArthur St Hamilton Vic 3300 E [jsreception@hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au](mailto:jsreception@hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au) P +613 5571 1066  
**Postal Address** PO Box 286 Hamilton Vic 3300

ABN 87 006 456 266 ACN 006 456 266



THE  
**HAMILTON**  
AND ALEXANDRA COLLEGE

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

- The Hon Dan Tehan MP, Member for Wannon - [dan.tehan.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:dan.tehan.mp@aph.gov.au)
- The Minister for Regional Education, Senator Hon. Bridget McKenzie – [bridget.mckenzie.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:bridget.mckenzie.mp@aph.gov.au)

Your support for this campaign will be a real help to our school, and underpin its important work for our young people and the Victorian South West Region and the South East of South Australia for years to come.

We will continue to keep you informed in relation to this issue and thank you for your support of our school.

Yours sincerely

Dr Andrew Hirst

---

**WWW.HAMILTONCOLLEGE.VIC.EDU.AU**

**Senior and Middle Years** 1 Chaucer St Hamilton Vic 3300 E [reception@hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au](mailto:reception@hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au) P +613 5572 1355  
**Junior School** Cnr Kent Rd and McArthur St Hamilton Vic 3300 E [jsreception@hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au](mailto:jsreception@hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au) P +613 5571 1066  
**Postal Address** PO Box 286 Hamilton Vic 3300

ABN 87 006 456 266 ACN 006 456 266