



Welcome to AISNSW's 2023 NSW Election Briefing.

This is the final update AISNSW will provide to Independent school principals before election day on Saturday 25 March.

Earlier this month, AISNSW wrote to the three major parties, seeking commitments on your behalf on a range of topics.

Below is an edited dot point summary of their commitments, as provided to AISNSW.

I trust you will make this summary available to your school community.

Margery Evans
Chief Executive

LIBERAL-NATIONALS COALITION

School infrastructure planning

- Remove the requirement for schools to provide the majority of impact reports and continue to work with all stakeholders to improve infrastructure planning systems
- Set up a concierge service to help schools navigate the planning system and better master plan their schools
- Work with the Independent sector to remove any unnecessary enrolment caps

Capital grants

- Provide \$25 million in 2023/24
- Exceed Labor's promise to provide \$60m for preschools in non-government schools

Reducing EVET course costs

- Cut EVET course costs for Independent school students by 50-90%, based on a school's ICSEA score

Maintaining recurrent funding

- Maintain school funding agreements to the non-government sector

Improving Section 83C

- Continue consulting with the non-government school sectors on improvements to Section 83C. This includes greater transparency in the audit process and clearer advice to schools on appropriate use of funding
- Continue to work through enhancements to the regulatory framework and guidelines for schools

Addressing teacher shortage

- Diversify entry pathways to teaching including a 1-year postgraduate qualification and midcareer pathways

Supporting wellbeing

- Introduce a new Mental Health and Wellbeing Innovation Fund
- Appointed a Chief Behaviour Advisor to advise all school sectors on student wellbeing and behaviour



School infrastructure planning

- Work on the planning issues non-government schools face, including challenges with the lengthy and complex State Significant Development process, the number of planning reports required and the impacts of arbitrary enrolment caps

Capital grants

- Provide \$60 million over three years for new and upgraded preschools and pre-kindergartens co-located with Catholic and Independent schools

Reducing EVET course costs

- Work with Catholic and Independent schools to develop a framework for implementing improved access and reduced costs of VET programs for students from low socio-economic backgrounds

Maintaining recurrent funding

- Commit to fund non-government schools according to the existing sector-blind, needs-based funding arrangements while fully funding NSW public schools according to need

Improving Section 83C

- Review Section 83C to improve the oversight of government funding to non-government schools including process improvements and providing greater clarity to non-government schools

Addressing teacher shortage

- Create a \$20 million Innovative Teacher Training Fund to support pathways into teaching, and expand evening and weekend Master of Teaching courses for career-changers so they can still earn an income whilst retraining as a teacher
- Improve the status of the profession and reduce workload pressures across all school systems

Supporting wellbeing

- Provide \$17 million to increase the Kids Helpline's capacity to respond to more children and young people 24/7
- Strengthen the integration of Kids Helpline with local and regional services across the mental health, child protection and education systems



THE GREENS

School infrastructure planning

- Focus on the systemic underfunding of public schools and improving public education

Capital grants

- Focus on the systemic underfunding of public schools and improving public education

Removing infrastructure levies

- Exempt not-for-profit schools with less than \$2 million in reserve from local government infrastructure levies

Reducing EVET course costs

- Restore TAFE as the public VET provider, abolish the contestable funding model and guarantee 100% of all State and Federal vocational education budgets to TAFE

Maintaining recurrent funding

- Focus on the systemic underfunding of public schools and improving public education

Improving Section 83C

- Support Section 83C of the Education Act

Addressing teacher shortage

- Give all NSW public school teachers a minimum 15% pay rise and index wages to inflation for the next 2 years
- Provide 2 extra hours per week (HPW) of relief from face-to-face teaching for all public primary teachers and 2 HPW less for public high school teachers as a permanent staffing entitlement
- Recruit and retain 12,000 teachers over the next 10 years
- Require that teachers, students, and the NSW Teachers Federation are equal partners in the development of all new education policy in NSW

Supporting wellbeing

- Provide at least 1 additional school counsellor for every public school over the next 4 years and reach a target ratio of 1 counsellor per 500 students by 2030

