



## **Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South New South Wales) Ltd Needs Based Funding Arrangement**

### **Commonwealth Funding Needs Based Funding Arrangement**

#### **Background information**

Prior to the 2020 funding cycle recurrent Commonwealth government grants were received by Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South New South Wales) Limited (SNSW Schools) and distributed to the schools as the approved system authority by the Department of Education Skills and Employment (DESE). The grants were calculated by the government based on the schools SES (socio-economic Status) or a funding-maintained SES score where applicable to preserve a school's existing funding. Amendments to the Australian Education Act in 2020 resulted in the replacement of the SES (Socio-Economic Status) measure with the DMI (Direct Measure of Income) for the purpose of calculating Capacity to Contribute (CTC) scores for non-government schools.

Under the Direct Measure of Income (DMI) policy settings the DMI uses personal income data of parents or guardians to calculate a median family income of the school. The school is then given a capacity to contribute (CTC) score based on the median income. During this time systemic non-government schools belonging to the same approved system authority no longer transitioned as a whole system together but as individual schools. This transition took place between 2020 to 2023 moving to an SRS (Schooling Resource Standard) share of 80% for each school.

#### **South NSW Schools Context**

Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South New South Wales) Limited (SNSW Schools) is an Approved System Authority operating three Seventh-day Adventist Schools located in Southern New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

#### **Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South New South Wales) Ltd**

3 McKay Gardens, Turner, ACT 2612 (PO Box 800, Canberra, ACT 2601)  
T (02) 6249 6822 F (02) 6247 5059 W [snsw.adventist.org.au](http://snsw.adventist.org.au) ABN 33 110 697 375

The three schools are:

- Narromine Christian School
- Canberra Christian School
- Border Christian College

As the Approved System Authority, South NSW receives funding from the Australian Federal Government. The Board of Directors then has the delegated authority and responsibility of allocating recurrent funding to the schools on a needs-basis.

It should be noted that the (System) operates a School Registration & Support Team which supports corporate functions such as finance, marketing, ICT, workplace health and safety, corporate applications, quality assurance and compliance. The School Registration & Support Team is supported by a percentage of funds from grants and self-generated income.

A principal benefit for the schools is access to a range of centralised services, which achieve operational efficiencies and are delivered with a detailed understanding of the schools' governance arrangements and faith-based framework. These services include:

- Financial management support
- Marketing
- ICT
- Workplace health and safety
- Risk management
- Governance and leadership
- Quality assurance
- Compliance

#### Base loading distribution

In line with section 78(5) of the Australian Education Act SNSW Schools provides an amount per student for each school that will allow all students to achieve the expected educational outcomes. For the 2025 school year the base amounts are as follows:

- Narromine Christian School: \$10,073
- Canberra Christian School: \$9,786

#### **Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South New South Wales) Ltd**

3 McKay Gardens, Turner, ACT 2612 (PO Box 800, Canberra, ACT 2601)

T (02) 6249 6822 F (02) 6247 5059 W [snsw.adventist.org.au](http://snsw.adventist.org.au) ABN 33 110 697 375

- Border Christian College: \$11,138

The System also provides the following six Commonwealth prescribed loadings to support students and schools with additional needs:

- Students with disability (SWD)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students (ATSI)
- Students with socio-educational disadvantage (SED)
- Students who have low English proficiency (LEP)
- Schools based on location
- Schools based on size

South NSW Schools considers the Commonwealth Government's DMI methodology for calculating a school's CTC score, to be an appropriate reflection of the capacity of households to contribute to school fees. South NSW Schools uses the Commonwealth calculation of a base amount, and six loadings, as the allocation methodology to each school. All loadings relate to specific circumstances and students at the individual schools, and it is considered important that these schools have the funding that relates to these unique circumstances. These funds are readily identifiable and easily attributable to each school.

#### [Review of Needs-Based Funding Arrangement](#)

This needs-based funding arrangement will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains a valid and appropriate methodology for allocating Government funding to all Schools within SNSW Schools.

#### **Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South New South Wales) Ltd**

3 McKay Gardens, Turner, ACT 2612 (PO Box 800, Canberra, ACT 2601)

**T** (02) 6249 6822 **F** (02) 6247 5059 **W** [snsw.adventist.org.au](http://snsw.adventist.org.au) ABN 33 110 697 375