



7 November 2023

Hon Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Via email: minister.clare@education.gov.au

Dear Minister

Commonwealth Teaching Scholarships

Christian schools welcome the establishment of Commonwealth Teaching Scholarships as a further tool in addressing the need for more qualified staff in schools across Australia.

As the fastest growing segment of the education sector, we are, however, disappointed that graduates seeking employment in Christian schools will not be eligible.

Put simply, we cannot understand why these scholarships discriminate against those who want to teach in a faith-based environment.

It was the Gillard Labor Government that finally addressed funding inequities through the needs based and sector blind funding model established under the *Australian Education Act 2013* (Cth). The provision of these new scholarships, with eligibility tied to the governance of the schools, risks opening up this debate once again, with the hundreds of thousands of parents in non-government schools potentially disadvantaged as a result.

We urge you to reconsider the commitment to teach obligation that forms part of the Scholarship program.

We would welcome the opportunity to continue to engage in discussions on this issue.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Spencer".

Mark Spencer
Director of Public Policy

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