

Non-Government Reform Support Fund

**2022 Workplan Addendum
Flood Support**

**The Association of Independent Schools of
New South Wales (AISNSW)**

Non-Government Reform Support Fund

The Association of Independents Schools of New South Wales (AISNSW)

Addendum - Flood Support Funding 2022

Summary of proposed activities to be funded by Flood Support Funding

Communities across NSW experienced significant flood or stormwater damage to their homes and businesses as a result of the recent extreme weather events over February and March. For many, this has impacted students' ability to attend their current school. It has resulted in damage or loss of computers, iPads, books, uniforms and other resources essential to their continuing education. Due to temporary or permanent displacement or loss of usual income, many families are now experiencing severe financial hardship and face the very real possibility of having to disrupt their child's education because they can no longer afford to attend the school of their choice. At this time, losing the consistency of a familiar school, teachers and friends would cause additional stress for students, detrimentally impacting their wellbeing and learning outcomes. Students have experienced many disruptions to their education over the last few years, so continuity and certainty of school education is critical.

Independent schools do an extraordinary job of providing practical and emotional support to distressed families within their communities in these circumstances. AISNSW has been in continual contact with schools in flood affected areas of NSW from the first day of the flooding in February. AISNSW staff maintained regular contact with these schools throughout March and into April, hearing first hand from Principals (some of whom had lost their own homes to the floods) about the devastating impact of the disaster on students, families and staff in their school communities. Even for schools that suffered significant damage (some completely destroyed), a key focus of Principals and school staff continued to be on supporting continuity of learning for students and helping families maintain enrolment of their children in the school of their choice.

To support families and students significantly impacted by the recent floods (in response to direct feedback from schools in the most impacted LGAs) AISNSW will administer a grant program to schools so they can support families in need to access fee relief and/or purchase replacement resources and equipment necessary for students to continue their education. The grants will be available by application to any independent school in a disaster declared LGA and will be assessed and distributed according to the greatest need. Schools will apply on behalf of individual students and/or staff. Grants will be paid to parents through schools for expenditure on specific items lost or damaged in floods such as books, stationary, computer equipment, school uniforms, musical instruments or sporting equipment. Where required, approval may also be given to use grant funds to support students with costs associated with temporary accommodation, transportation and replacing basic needs such as clothing, bedding, food.

Summary of budget

Project	Activities	Reform support funding	Funding from other sources	Total project funding
Targeted support to non-government schools affected by flood	Flood Support grants for independent schools	\$1,372,623	\$0	\$1,372,623
	Total funding	\$1,372,623	\$0	\$1,372,623

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Project title	Project description and activities	Indicative budget	Expected outcomes/Overall achievements	Indicators of success
<p>Targeted support to non-government schools affected by flood</p>	<p>Flood Support grants for independent schools;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support families and students significantly impacted by the recent floods (in response to direct feedback from schools in the most significantly impacted LGAs) AISNSW will administer a grant program to schools so they can support families with a demonstrated need to access fee relief and/or purchase replacement resources and equipment necessary for students to continue their education eg replacing items lost or damaged in floods such as books, stationary, computer equipment, school uniforms, musical instruments or sporting equipment. Where required, approval may also be given to use grant funds to support students with costs associated with temporary accommodation, transportation and replacing basic needs such as clothing, bedding, food. The grants will be available by application to any independent school in a disaster declared LGA and will be assessed and distributed according to the greatest need. Schools will apply on behalf of individual students. Grants will be paid to schools to provide direct support to the identified students for fee relief or for expenditure on specific student belongings lost or damaged in floods such as books, stationary, computer equipment, school uniforms, musical instruments or sporting equipment. 	<p>Reform support funding: \$1,372,623</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will have the resources needed to continue attending school and engage in learning. Students will experience continuity and certainty of school education by continuing enrolment in the school of their choice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1,372,623 will be distributed to more than 20 schools (no later than 30 June 2022) for the support of at least 300 students and families affected by the February/March 2022 flood disaster.