

19<sup>th</sup> January 2010

The Editor  
The Courier-Mail  
PO Box 130  
**BRISBANE QLD 4001**

Dear Sir

Your article "*Public schools losing out*" (18/1/10) reports on a study commissioned by the Australian Education Union on schools funding.

This study has a fatal flaw in that it fails to mention the role of state governments in funding schools. State governments provide the bulk of funding for public schools, thus ensuring that students in government schools receive higher levels of taxpayer support than those in independent schools.

The report fails to disclose that each student in a government school receives, on average, almost \$12,000 each year in total government funding compared to an average of \$5,800 for each independent school student.

The fact is that of the \$34 billion spent annually by governments on schools, \$27 billion or 80% is spent on public schools (which enrol approximately 66% of students). The government spend on independent schools is \$2.5 billion or about 7% of total expenditure. This is for schools which enrol about 14% of all students.

Despite what the AEU might say, students attending public schools continue to receive significantly more funding from governments than those attending independent schools.

The Australian Education Union regularly misrepresents the facts about schools funding. This does nothing to advance the quality of education or the educational debate in Australia.

Yours faithfully



**David Robertson**  
**Acting Executive Director**  
**Independent Schools Queensland**