New data exposes school funding flaws

School SES scores . the key determinant of federal funding for Catholic and independent schools . are biased in favour of elite independent schools, previously unpublished data shows, leaving Catholic and other inclusive non-government schools short-changed.

The data, which has been drawn from several different sources, is contained in a new report released today by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV).

⅃/@ã ¦^][¦c*ãç^• æ}^¸ level of significance to the review of SES scores just unveiled by Eå˘&ææą} Mã¸ãc^¦ Uã[˘}'   }'   @ã¦A á   ˘¦~   ˘ á

⅂c&[}-ã{ •¸ @ãcCæ@¦|ã&^å˘&ææą} @æ à^^} •æ̂ã* +¦ˆ^æ̇• . that SES scores rip off Catholic schools.

⅃/@ CECX•č å^ æ̇•[•@¸•c@æcå˘^ ą +æ•ã ÙEÙ•&[¦^•¸¸^æ̇c@ ãå^]^}å^}c•&@[¦•¸ã| be overfunded by hundreds of millions of dollars next year.

⅁ãç^} c@æcÙEÙ•&[¦^• æ̇^ c@ { [•cã][¦cæ}c]æ̇æ{ ^c^¦+¦}[}-government schools in the Turnbull G[ç^¦}{ ^}çq }^¸ ˜}åã* { [å^|,c@ ¦^][¦c{ æ̇•^• æ{ [&\^¦ˆ [~c@ Ú¦ã ^ Mã̃ãc^¦q æ̇} å Ù^}æ̇[¦ Bã{ ã*@æ̇ q &|æ̇ã • c@æcc@^ •˘]][¦ơ }^^å•-àæ^å ˜}åã*.q

School Socio-Economic Status (SES) scores are used to means-test families in Catholic and independent schools. They are calculated based on where students live. Under this broad-brush approach, all families in the same neighbourhood are assumed to have the same capacity to pay school fees.

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⅃/@ˆ -ææ̇ ¦^&[*}ã^ c@æc@ã̇ @fee and lower-fee schools in the same neighbourhood attract students from very different socio-economic backgrounds

Within the same neighbourhoods, Catholic s
who hold a Health Card Care than independ
Within the same neighbourhoods, Catholic s
disadvantaged backgrounds than independe
Within the same neighbourhoods, Catholic s
incomes than independent school families .
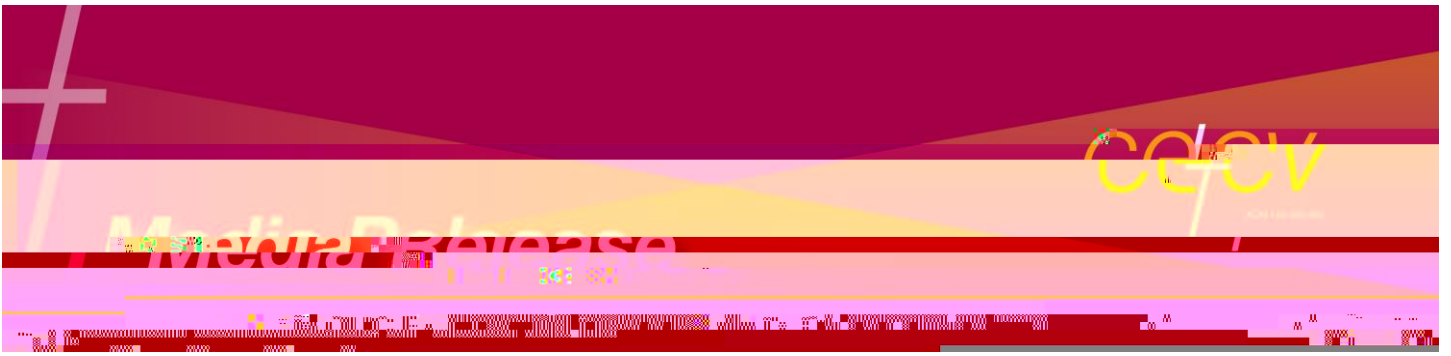
The data also shows that the SES scores of high-fee, wealthy schools should be much higher as high-fee, wealthy schools o-ȼ^} ±&@¦¦ˆ-] ã&\ qc@˄ { [•cæ┼˘^} c•č å^} ơ ┼[{ }^ã˜@a[˘¦@[å•. V@ã practice artificially lowers the SES scores received by high-fee schools. Conversely, SES scores for many Catholic schools are too high.

Mr Elder said the CECV report cannot be ignor^å àˆ c@˄ V˘¦} à˘ ‖ G[ç^¦} { ^} ơ, ÙÈÙ ¦^çã˜¸ ; initially resisted by Senator Birmingham, then conceded as part of his Gonski 2.0 Senate horse-trading.

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