

# MELOS EDUCATION GROUP OF SCHOOLS

## NEEDS-BASED FUNDING ARRANGEMENT

JANUARY 2026

## INTRODUCTION

Melos Education Limited (**MEL**) is the Approved System Authority (**ASA**) which receives all Commonwealth Government recurrent funding in accordance with the Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth) (Act) and the Australian Education Regulation 2-13 (Cth) (**Regulations**), and all NSW Government recurrent funding in accordance with the Education Act 1990 (NSW) (**NSW Act**), in respect of MEL Registered Schools, as defined below.

In accordance with section 78(4) of the Act, MEL is registered as an independent Approved Authority for the purpose of distributing funding according to the Schooling Resource Standard (**SRS**).

Pursuant to section 78(5) of the Act, MEL has prepared this Needs Based Funding Arrangement (**NBFA**) to outline how MEL, as the ASA, distributes Commonwealth and State recurrent funding to MEL registered schools.

## BACKGROUND

Melos Education Limited is a public company limited by guarantee that is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC) as a charity with the sub-types 'advancing education' and 'advancing religion'. MEL leads an arrangement between member schools in support of a partnership that seeks to strengthen the cause of Christian education by:

- a. Governing and taking a role in the senior management of each member school; and
- b. providing a range of educational and business services to support the strategic and daily operations of each member school.

MEL has a Board of Directors and is the sole proprietor responsible for the administration and operation of its registered schools, including:

- Brewarrina Christian School
- Greenacre Christian College
- Green Point Christian College
- Moree Christian School
- Yanginanook School
- Yattalunga Valley Christian School

(collectively, the **MEL Registered Schools**)

This NBFA applies to all MEL Registered Schools for the purpose of providing primary and secondary education.

Our core purpose as an organisation is to equip students for a life of redemptive action through a holistic education grounded in a Biblical perspective. Our mission is to seek the formation of our students in forming the attributes articulated in each school's graduate profile, to develop staff who are able to serve students and the school community in manner

befitting their calling, and to support families as the cornerstone of a flourishing society. In delivering on our core purpose and mission we partner with our student's families, the local community and the Commonwealth and State Governments. MEL is grateful to both the State and Commonwealth Governments for their funding support of all Australian schools, and particularly to each MEL school. Along with the fee contribution from our parent community, this funding allows us to adequately provide the quality schooling, facilities and resources we enjoy. We are ultimately grateful however, to a good and generous God who supplies all our needs.

To ensure the MEL Registered Schools are operated as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible MEL has established a Group Office to oversee the delivery of certain educational and administrative activities necessary for the operation of each school. The Group Office, therefore, delivers services that include, but are not limited to payroll, accounting, ICT, human resource management, professional development and mentoring of senior school leaders, compliance support, marketing and other professional services and support. The centralised delivery of these services is expected to eliminate duplication and increase efficiencies, so all Melos Schools can benefit from economies of scale and reduced overheads. This is expected to improve educational outcomes for all Melos School students.

The operation of the Group Office is governed by a Service Agreement specific to each school to ensure that appropriate and targeted services are provided.

## PHILOSOPHY

In line with section 78(5) of the *Australian Education Act 2013* (Cth), the Melos Group as a 'System' provides an amount per student for each school that:

- will allow a student with minimal educational disadvantage to achieve expected educational outcomes; and
- takes account of efficiencies that can be realised while improving educational outcomes.

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

- Students with disability.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students.
- Students with socio-educational disadvantage.
- Students who have low English proficiency.
- Schools based on location, and
- Schools based on size.

## DISTRIBUTION OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RECURRENT FUNDING

In accordance with section 78(5) of the *Australian Education Act 2013* (Cth) the ASA distributes funding to the Registered Schools in accordance with the following arrangement:

- Recurrent funding is distributed in compliance with the Act and Regulations.
- When determining the relevant distribution of funding to each of the MEL Registered Schools, the ASA considers the individual needs of students and each school in a fair and consistent manner with the view to delivering the highest possible quality of education for each student enrolled at an MEL Registered School.

- Commonwealth Base Funding Distribution
  - In calculating the base funding distribution for each MEL Registered School, the ASA adopts the Commonwealth Government’s base amount methodology, as set out in Division 2 of Part 3 of the Act, which multiplies the number of students in the relevant school with the notional student resource standard (SRS) funding amount for the relevant year. This amount is then adjusted to take account of each school’s capacity to contribute (CTC) percentage, resulting in an amount per student (**Amount per student**)
  - The Amount per Student is distributed to each MEL Registered School based upon the number of students, less an amount which is deducted to fund the MEL Group Office activities. This amount is adjusted according to management requirements as applicable to each school, to arrive at a consolidated administrative cost for each MEL Registered School.
- Commonwealth Loadings for Disadvantage Distribution
  - The ASA passes on the Commonwealth Government’s allocated loadings directly to each Registered School in accordance with Division 2 of Part 3 of the Act. The loadings apply to:
    - students with a disability.
    - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.
    - students with socio-educational disadvantage.
    - students with low English proficiency.
    - the size of a school, and
    - the location of a school,
- Funding received from the State Government
  - Recurrent funding received from the State Government is received by the ASA in accordance with section 83B(6)(ii) of the NSW Act, for the benefit of the relevant SPCC Registered School.
- The overall distribution of recurrent funding to the Melos Schools equals the sum of the amounts calculated in respect of each individual school within the System – less the amount determined by the Melos Group as required to fund the central provision of essential services for all Melos Schools, including the corporate overhead costs incurred by the Melos Group for the administration of the Melos Schools and the centralised services.

The Melos Group is of the view that the above stated needs-based funding arrangement ensures that funding flows equitably to each school in the System, is for the benefit of all its students and meets student need in accordance with the requirements in the *Australian Education Act 2013*.

## FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Melos Group provides detailed financial information to the Australian Government annually for each of the Melos Schools – by way of the Financial Questionnaire, and via the Block Allocations Report under the regular financial accountability and acquittal process, as well as supporting data including audited financial statements. This data is then used to create

the dataset reported by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority on the publicly accessible MySchool website.

Separately, financial information about the Melos Group is reported on the register (which is a publicly accessible website) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission.

To meet reporting requirements for the NSW Education Standards Authority and a number of Commonwealth reporting requirements, each MEL School publishes an annual report on school performance, which includes financial information.

## REVIEW

This Needs-Based Funding Arrangement will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains a valid and appropriate methodology for allocating government funding to all Melos Schools within the system.

A copy of this document can be found on the Melos website – [www.melos.education](http://www.melos.education).