

Media Release



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Everyone agrees education should be funded fairly, but how?

As public schools teach two-thirds of Australian students, their funding seems paramount. But parents of private school students pay taxes, too. Shouldn't they receive a fair share of the education dollar?

On 24 May at the Melbourne Town Hall, *Intelligence Squared* asks if public funding of private education is unconscionable.

Amid fresh reports of compromised education reforms, inadequate teacher performance appraisals, and Victoria's underperformance on literacy and numeracy tests, every dollar spent on education must be validated twice over. So what better time to examine one of the most contentious and fundamental points of education policy?

Tuesday 24 May 2011, 6:30PM – 8:30PM

***Intelligence Squared* debate, Public Funding of Private Education is Unconscionable**

Melbourne Town Hall, corner of Swanston and Collins streets, Melbourne

\$20/\$12 concession, bookings through wheelercentre.com

For: Shane Maloney, Chris Bonnor and Beatrice Duong.

Against: Amanda Vanstone, Kevin Donnelly and Andrew Elder.

About *Intelligence Squared*

Intelligence Squared is a provocative and informative series of live debates on hot-button issues. The format is the traditional Oxford-style debate, with one side proposing and the other side opposing a sharply framed motion. Three argue on each side of the motion. After the formal arguments, the debate is thrown open to the floor for moderated questions. The live audience votes on the motion both before and after hearing the arguments, so at each debate there is a clear measure of how far people have actually been swayed. *Intelligence Squared* in Melbourne is a project of the St James Ethics Centre and the Wheeler Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas.

More about the speakers

Shane Maloney is one of Australia's most popular novelists. His award-winning and much loved Murray Whelan series is characterised by a strong sense of humour and an acute sense of Melbourne's political and cultural nuances. He is a passionate advocate of Australia's public school system.

Chris Bonnor is a retired school principal and co-author (with Jane Caro) of *The Stupid Country – How Australia is Dismantling Public Education*, (UNSW Press, 2007). He writes for various publications and is a contributing author to the Centre for Policy Development's *More Than Luck: Ideas Australia Needs Now*.

Beatrice Duong attends John Monash School and is one of Victoria's top high-school debaters.

Amanda Vanstone is a former Australian politician and was Ambassador to Italy from June 2007 to May 2010. She was a Liberal Senator for South Australia from 1984 to 2007, and held several ministerial portfolios in the Howard Government, including Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs from 1996-97

Dr Kevin Donnelly is one of Australia's leading education commentators and author of *Why Our Schools are Failing*, *Dumbing Down* and *Australia's Education Revolution*. He taught English for 18 years in Victorian government and non-government schools and has been a member of state and national curriculum bodies. Currently, Kevin is Director of Melbourne-based Education Standards Institute.

Andrew Elder is in Year 12 at Scotch College and is one of Victoria's top high-school debaters.

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The Wheeler Centre

A Victorian Government initiative and the centrepiece of Melbourne's designation as a UNESCO City of Literature.