




Supplementary Submission
Association of Independent Schools ACT
ACT Legislative Assembly Estimates Hearing
Friday 15th June 2007

 A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE	
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Thank you Mr Chair for the opportunity to add these comments which reflect the experience of one independent school. I believe they reflect the experience of all ACT independent schools.

The matter of most serious concern to us all is the failure of the present ACT Government to provide funding which keeps pace with the increasing costs of education.

- At my school, salaries account for just over 75% of the total annual budget.
- This year, and for the next three years, salaries will increase by 4% per year. This increase has been agreed as part of a new agreement. (In some ACT Independent schools under different agreements, the increase will be greater)
- The ACT Government component of funding has failed year after year to keep up with salary increases. In a year when salaries alone will rise by 4%, the ACT contribution to the total revenue will rise by only 2.75%. A paper emanating from the Catholic Education Office reports in early 2007 that the *ACT Education Cost Index* increased by 6.4% over the previous twelve months.

There is obviously a serious shortfall in funding from the ACT Government.

- The attached graph, and the accompanying underlying figures, clearly show that ACT government funding has not kept pace with Federal funding and Fees paid by parents.

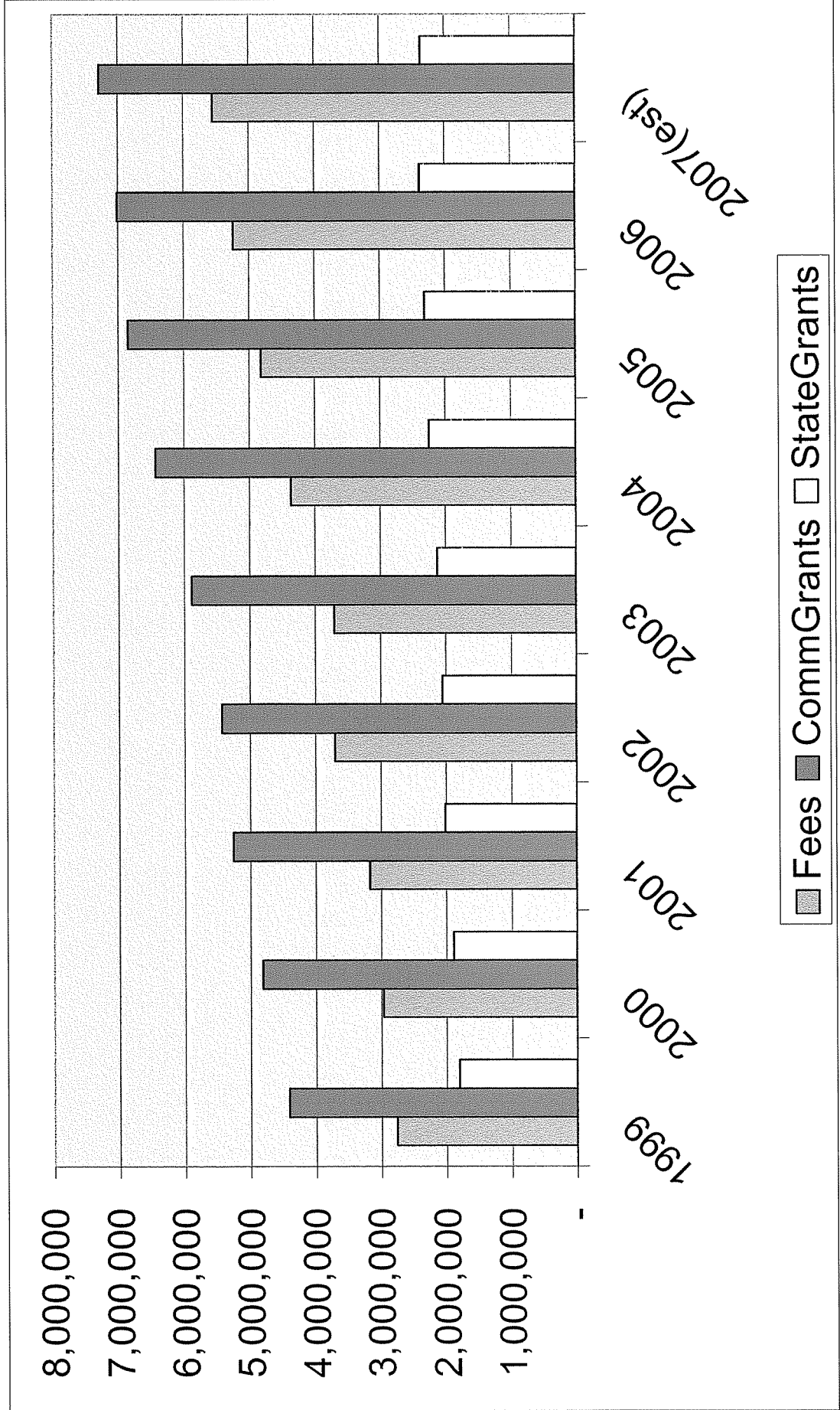
Note in the figures chart that over the period 1999 to 2007, School Fees have increased 100% while ACT Government funding has risen by 31%.

- It is the parents who are bearing the burden of the funding shortfall via annual fee increases across the ACT of the order of 8% a year. To me, this is effectively a hidden additional tax on those who choose non-government education. These parents are being expected to contribute more and more to the cost of school education in the ACT.
- The word missing from the 'Towards 2020' catch phrase is clearly Equity.

On behalf of my fellow educators I want to record my deep disappointment with the way Independent Schools have again been treated in the ACT budget.

We could go further into a discussion of the unfulfilled promises made regarding independent education during the last ACT election. There is not time for this today.

David Garratt
15.6.07



	Fees	CommGrants	StateGrants
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1999	2,762,180	4,407,792	1,804,967
2000	2,969,372	4,807,330	1,887,776
2001	3,172,769	5,250,780	2,011,328
2002	3,700,143	5,423,830	2,054,928
2003	3,708,233	5,882,100	2,129,621
2004	4,357,222	6,437,628	2,250,784
2005	4,811,203	6,850,179	2,313,445
2006	5,229,671	7,012,829	2,388,383
2007(est)	5,540,638	7,282,124	2,362,932

Increase 1999 to 2007	100.59%	65.21%	30.91%
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