

Media Release
Greens NSW Dr John Kaye MLC
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GILLARD'S \$1M CULT HANDOUT SHOWS NEED FOR URGENT FIX TO SCHOOL FUNDING

The Greens are calling on Federal Education Minister Julia Gillard to reform funding for private schools after revelations that the Exclusive Brethren has received a taxpayer-funded windfall of over \$1 million, according to Greens NSW MP John Kaye.

Responding to a report in today's Australian newspaper ('Exclusive Brethren enjoying \$1 million taxpayer windfall'), Dr Kaye said: "Minister Gillard's embrace of John Howard's education agenda is seeing millions of dollars of taxpayers funds being spent inappropriately on extremist groups like the Exclusive Brethren and wealthy private schools.

"Minister Gillard is using Howard government policies to provide large sums of cash to the Exclusive Brethren.

"By setting up its Meadowbank Education Trust as a multi-campus school the extremist group has been able to make the most of Howard era rules that locked in generous funding for private schools.

"An organisation labelled by Kevin Rudd as an 'extremist cult' should not be able to use the Meadowbank Education Trust as a smokescreen to milk taxpayers.

"The Rudd government is hiding behind a do-nothing policy that is reinforcing structural disadvantage," Dr Kaye said.

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The Australian story is available at

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/exclusive-brethren-enjoying-1m-taxpayer-windfall/story-e6frg6nf-1225818598020>