



MEDIA RELEASE

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SCHOOLS AGREEMENT MUST SUPPORT ALL AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS FOR REFORM TO SUCCEED

All Australian students, in all schools, must be supported to benefit from school reforms, Independent Schools Australia (ISA) said following the release today of the Better and Fairer Schools Agreement (BFSA) by the Albanese Government.

ISA CEO Graham Catt said, “ISA commends Minister Clare’s commitment to educational reforms to lift student outcomes. The BFSA’s focus on evidence-based teaching, early intervention through phonics and numeracy checks, and enhanced wellbeing support are positive initiatives.”

“We appreciate the involvement of non-government sector peak bodies in the BFSA consultations, as a collaborative approach is essential for the success of significant reforms.”

“A sector neutral approach to resourcing reform initiatives is also critical for the success of an ambitious reform agenda.” Mr Catt said. “Around one third of all Australian students attend a non-government school.”

Most of Australia’s 1216 Independent schools are low or medium fee, charging less than \$5500 a year. Many charge no fees at all, and support students with high levels of need or disadvantage.

“Independent schools have a proven ability to innovate and trial new approaches that deliver real outcomes in the BFSA’s key areas of reform. While we commend and support the additional investment in government schools, many educators in Independent schools are concerned that the Government won’t support them with the resources needed to fully realise this potential, and to share valuable learnings and practice across sectors.”

“That’s a missed opportunity to deliver real outcomes for all schools, and innovations that will help deliver the collective goal of a better and fairer education system,” Mr Catt said.

ISA remains dedicated to working with the Government and all stakeholders on the implementation of the BFSA, ensuring that it not only sets high standards for schooling but also provides the means for all schools to meet them.

Independent Schools Australia is the national peak body representing 1,216 Independent schools with close to 720,000 enrolled students, accounting for approximately 17 per cent of Australian school enrolments and a workforce of 122,000 people. Independent schools are diverse, serving a range of different communities across Australia.

For more information – www.isa.edu.au

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