



IMPROVING TEACHER QUALITY: Independent Schools Centre for Excellence

The Independent Schools Centre for Excellence (ISCE) supports schools within the sector to demonstrate, develop and share high quality teaching and learning.

Research evidence indicates that teacher quality is the single greatest in-school influence on student engagement and outcomes. The Independent Schools Centre for Excellence has been established to assist schools to raise the quality of teaching and learning, thereby enhancing student performance throughout the independent sector.

The ISCE is designed as an inclusive mechanism that will facilitate the sharing of high quality teaching practice among independent schools and support the building of strong relationships between independent schools and Aboriginal communities.

The key strategies of the ISCE are to support independent schools to build capacity and to develop relationships that build a smarter, stronger, sustainable independent schools sector.

The ISCE offers grants to support schools to:

- increase the number of teachers accredited at the higher levels
- build relationships with other independent schools to support improved teacher quality
- offer quality teacher education placements
- engage in professional exchange and mentoring between teachers in different schools
- develop partnerships with universities
- strengthen cultural awareness

Schools with demonstrated strengths in areas identified in the facilitation reforms of the National Partnership on Improving Teacher Quality may be involved in assisting schools that apply for support through the ISCE. They may also support targeted independent schools involved in the National Partnerships for Literacy and Numeracy and Low SES School Communities.

Teachers and leaders in schools contributing to the activities of the ISCE are involved in working with colleagues through mentoring, modelling, collaborative planning, team teaching, and developing teaching resources.

As it develops, the ISCE will provide a range of support services to achieve the facilitation reforms, including:

- assisting schools to implement effective literacy and numeracy practices
- supporting school operational arrangements encouraging flexibility and innovation
- working with Aboriginal elders and communities to build capacity



- supporting school involvement in cultural awareness building programs
- strengthening school self-evaluation processes
- enhancing external partnerships with parents, universities, businesses and communities
- demonstrating best practice performance management .

The Independent Schools Leadership Centre (ISLC) and the Independent Schools Teacher Accreditation Authority (ISTAA) provide professional support for the activities of the ISCE.

The ISCE is governed by the Independent Schools Centre for Excellence Council comprising principals from a wide range of independent schools. Secretariat support is provided by the Association of Independent Schools of NSW.

For Further Information:

Contact: Estelle Lewis,
Director: Teacher Accreditation
Email: elewis@aisnsw.edu.au
Phone: (02) 9299 2845
Fax: (02) 9290 2274