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MEDIA RELEASE

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Outstanding independent school success in HSC First in Course

Today's HSC First in Course awards, presented by the NSW Minister for Education, Adrian Piccoli, highlighted the outstanding quality of independent schooling in New South Wales, said Dr Geoff Newcombe, Executive Director of the Association of Independent Schools of NSW.

"Every student who completes their HSC has worked extremely hard and deserves recognition for their effort. To achieve First in Course is an outstanding achievement of which they, their school and their families can be justly proud", Dr Newcombe said.

This year 30% of the First in Course recipients were from independent schools, although just 22.5% of the HSC candidature came from the sector.

Sydney Grammar School achieved an outstanding result with six First in Course awards, while Pymble Ladies College had three awards, and two each to Abbotsleigh, Moriah College and St Catherine's School at Waverley. Twenty other independent schools each had a student who topped the state in a subject.

Dr Newcombe said: "Very pleasing was the spread of awards, with a wide range of schools represented. This diversity is a great strength of the independent schools sector."

"These results show why choice in schooling is so important to our community and why so many parents choose an independent school, recognising what it takes to help their child reach his or her potential."

"I offer my congratulations to each and every student who was recognised today. They can now enjoy a well earned break and look forward to the next exciting chapter in their lives. Their families and schools should be very proud of their efforts."

"The Board of Studies is also to be commended for the outstanding way in which it administers the HSC", said Dr Newcombe.

Dr Newcombe also said that the success of non-government school students showed how important it was for governments to support parents' choice and ensure that no school has its funding reduced as a result of the Federal Government's Review of Funding for Schooling. The Review panel is expected to deliver its report to the Government before the end of December.

Attached: list of independent school First in Course awards

**2011 Higher School Certificate First in Course Awards
NSW Independent Schools**

| School | No. of First In Course awards |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Abbotsleigh | 2 |
| Australian International Academy | 1 |
| Barker College | 1 |
| Canberra Grammar School | 1 |
| Christian Brothers HS, Lewisham | 1 |
| Emanuel School | 1 |
| Kambala | 1 |
| Knox Grammar School | 1 |
| Masada College | 1 |
| Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College | 1 |
| Moriah College | 2 |
| Newington College | 1 |
| PAL College | 1 |
| Pittwater House Grammar School | 1 |
| Pymble Ladies College | 3 |
| Queenwood | 1 |
| Reddam House | 1 |
| Redlands | 1 |
| SCEGGS Darlinghurst | 1 |
| St Catherine's, Waverley | 2 |
| St Charbel's College | 1 |
| St Columba Anglican School | 1 |
| St Spyridon College | 1 |
| Sydney Grammar School | 6 |
| Trinity Grammar School | 1 |