



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Independent schools export education expertise to India**

Exporting independent school educational expertise from New South Wales to India will help to boost good relations between the two countries, says the Association of Independent Schools of NSW, as it prepares to support an official visit to India by the NSW Premier, Barry O'Farrell.

The Association has recently established relationships with a number of schools and school groups in India with a view to providing training in educational leadership for principals and school leaders, said its Executive Director, Dr Geoff Newcombe

"We are delighted to be supporting NSW efforts to establish and improve business and professional relationships with our colleagues in India, particularly in light of the Premier's visit to India next week", said Dr Newcombe.

"Education in our global community is about more than enticing students to study in Australia. We are working with Indian principals and school leaders to develop and deliver high quality training in educational leadership which facilitates improved teaching and learning practices.

"The goal of all educators is to make a positive impact on student achievement. In sharing global best practice in teacher and school leadership training, which are foundations of the Association's professional learning programs, we can make a positive difference and assist our Indian colleagues to utilise the approaches that work in an Australian educational setting."

Dr Newcombe also said that the assistance of the NSW Government's Multicultural Business Advisory Panel, chaired by businessman Mr Nihal Gupta, was instrumental in linking the Association's work with the NSW Government's efforts in engaging with India.

"The time is clearly right to seek opportunities to share our expertise with our colleagues in India, with the Premier making clear that this is a priority for his government. Education provision is a high quality industry in NSW that will bring benefits back to the state as long as we get it right in the export market. Our own teachers and school leaders will also benefit greatly from interacting with their counterparts in India, and there is a great deal we can learn from them."

The Association has already established reciprocal visits and training opportunities with a number of schools located in several major Indian cities. It will be running an educational leadership workshop at the Holy Child Auxilium School in New Delhi on 16<sup>th</sup> November to coincide with the Premier's visit.