



MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW independent school enrolments increase again

Independent schools have reported an increase in independent school enrolments at the beginning of the 2009 school year, despite predictions from some commentators that the global financial downturn was already having an impact on enrolments.

The Executive Director of the Association of Independent Schools of NSW, Dr Geoff Newcombe, said: "There has been much speculation in the media recently about the impact of the current economic downturn on independent school enrolments. This has been fuelled in part by anecdotal accounts that government schools have seen significant increases in enrolments at the expense of independent schools."

In February 2009 the Association collected data from over 340 independent schools which showed an increase in enrolments from August 2008 (the date of the Australian Government's Non-Government Schools Census) to February 2009 of almost 2,000 students, or an increase of 1.4%.

"Our analysis of these figures has shown that the enrolment increase has not been confined to any particular part of the independent sector in terms of school type or affiliation, primary or secondary school, geographic location or the socio-economic circumstances of the schools or the community", Dr Newcombe said.

"Few independent schools appear to have lost enrolments, with the majority remaining steady or increasing. This result in the current financial times is a wonderful endorsement of the value parents place on an independent school education for their children."

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