



MEDIA RELEASE

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Soaring enrolments continue trend to independent schools

The most recent school enrolment statistics released by the *Australian Bureau of Statistics** showed that Australian families are continuing to choose independent schools in ever increasing numbers, said Dr Geoff Newcombe, Executive Director of the Association of Independent Schools of NSW.

“The increase in NSW independent school enrolments from 2010 – 2011 more than doubled that of the previous year, showing that when parents look for a quality education for their children they recognise that independent schools are likely to meet their needs”, Dr Newcombe said.

“This is a massive vote of confidence in independent schools, particularly during a period of continuing global economic instability”, said Dr Newcombe.

Dr Newcombe said that the result showed the importance of government support for families who choose independent schools for their children.

“With the imminent release of the Gonski Review into school funding, this is a clear signal to governments that they must continue supporting the choices being made by thousands of families every year. It is critical that adequate government funding be maintained to support the high quality of education provided by independent schools.”

The ABS data showed the overall increase in independent school enrolments in NSW to be 2.1% from 2010 - 2011, significantly outstripping the 0.9% increase in 2009 - 2010.

The increase in independent school enrolments was consistent across both primary (2.0%) and secondary (2.2%) levels. Of the 9,228 additional students in NSW in 2011, more than 31% enrolled in independent schools, far in excess of the sector's overall enrolment share.

Dr Newcombe said: “These results are clear – parents recognise the excellent outcomes achieved by students in independent schools, including in NAPLAN testing and the HSC, and act accordingly. This also saves billions of taxpayer dollars every year making this a win/win result for the Australian community.”

More information is available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics *Schools Australia 2011* release of 3rd February 2012.