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## School and business partnerships to 'Elevate' students

Developing Australia's future leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs requires new approaches to learning that identify and realise the highest potential in all students and for strategic partnerships to be forged between schools and industry, an audience of business leaders and educators in Sydney was told at the launch of a new program today.

Launching *ELEVATE: agile design for high potential learners*, the Hon Alex Hawke MP, Assistant Minister to the Federal Treasurer, said that recent research clearly identified the need for Australian education systems to become more agile, creative and innovative if they were to successfully equip students with the higher level skills that would be needed in the future.

Minister Hawke also stated that: "*ELEVATE* is a program that encourages innovation and creativity in our education system, as well as picks up on two critical policy areas for the Turnbull Government, the *National Innovation and Science Agenda* and the *National STEM School Education Strategy*."

Developed by the Association of Independent Schools of New South Wales (AISNSW) using Australian Government funds and its own resources, *ELEVATE* is a response to a research paper '*Innovating for Global Excellence*' prepared for the AISNSW Institute by the internationally renowned UK-based Innovation Unit.

The *Innovating for Global Excellence* paper found that:

- Most educational jurisdictions in Australia saw a significant decrease in the proportion of top performers in mathematical literacy and reading literacy between 2003 and 2012, as measured by the OECD's Program for International Student Assessment (PISA)
- Australia ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness rankings, below neighbours like New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Malaysia
- Australian managers score low in the 'visionary and strategic leadership' and 'people leadership' capabilities measured in the Australian Management Capability Index, and
- Education in Australia is one of the sectors falling behind in innovation, while educational innovation has been made central to the curriculum in countries such as China, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Executive Director of AISNSW, Dr Geoff Newcombe, said that Australian schools needed to be at the forefront of efforts to address the underperformance of our top students in international assessments, an issue identified as needing urgent attention if Australia was to remain economically competitive.

"It is critical that schools be able to create the best learning environments possible to ensure that all students, particularly those with the highest potential, have the skills that foster innovation, creativity and higher level thinking so we can compete in the global economy", Dr Newcombe said.

"*ELEVATE* will assist our leading educators, drawing on the best examples from around the world, to collaborate and design classroom learning approaches that respond and adapt to the needs of students, that challenge and engage them, so they can make the most of the opportunities that will come their way in the future."

## Media Release

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The program has also received strong support from the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI).

Kate Carnell AO, the newly appointed Ombudsman for Family Enterprise and Small Business and former CEO of ACCI, said it was crucial for Australian businesses to play a role in preparing young people to become our innovators, job creators and social change agents of the future.

“The skills we need cannot be developed in isolation by schools. Effective partnerships between schools, business and government must be formed to identify and produce our future visionary and strategic leaders and industry innovators who will ensure Australia’s economic prosperity.

“For this reason the Chamber is a strong supporter of *ELEVATE*. It is in the interests of our members and the Australian community that we work together to create the opportunities and conditions that secure our future. I’m excited by the possibilities that *ELEVATE* will generate”, Ms Carnell said.

An *ELEVATE* Information Sheet with further details about the program is attached.

### Useful links:

<http://elevate.aisnsw.edu.au>

<http://aitsl.edu.au/leading-voices>

[www.innovationunit.org](http://www.innovationunit.org)

### Twitter:

@aisnswELEVATE

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### Media contacts:

**Malcolm Hunt, Association of Independent Schools of NSW - 0412 885 136**

**Paul Nicolaou, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry – 0419 400 038**