



# Media Release

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## **2017 HSC – congratulations to all students completing their HSC**

Dr Geoff Newcombe AM, Chief Executive of the Association of Independent Schools of NSW (AISNSW), today congratulated all students who were awarded their 2017 Higher School Certificate.

“Every student completing their HSC deserves to be congratulated following the many years of study and hard work they have each put in”, Dr Newcombe said.

“This year more than 16,500 students from Independent schools were awarded their HSC, accounting for 24 per cent of all students. They performed exceptionally well overall, accounting for as many as 43 per cent of all students on this year’s Merit Lists.”

Independent school students across all socioeconomic groups also achieved top band results at rates above the state average. For example, 10% of the results for independent school students in the lowest socioeconomic grouping were in the top band, compared with the state average of 7%. The significance of these results is shown by the fact that, contrary to popular belief, two-thirds of Independent schools in NSW have an SES ranking in the lower half of the scale, indicating they serve lower socioeconomic communities.

“This demonstrates that Independent schools have a positive impact on the educational outcomes of students from low socioeconomic backgrounds, with their students more likely to achieve a top band result,” said Dr Newcombe.

“These achievements wouldn’t be possible without the support students receive from their teachers and families. The quality of teaching is one of the biggest influences on a student’s education, and this year’s results confirm that Independent schools continue to deliver excellent results across the board.

“Parents can be confident when choosing an independent school that their child will receive a high quality of education,” Dr Newcombe said.

Students from independent schools:

- represented 24% of all candidates for the 2017 Higher School Certificate.
- accounted for 43% of those on the All Round Achievers list. This list is made up of those students who received a top band result across 10 or more units of study.
- represented 32% of all students who placed First in Course.
- accounted for 40% of those on the Distinguished Achievers list.

2017 HSC students receive their results today. More information on HSC results and merit lists is available at the NSW Education Standards Authority website at [www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au](http://www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au)