

# Media Release

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Independent Schools  
Council of Australia

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## Independent school sector continues to grow

With the largest growth in school numbers of any school sector, the Independent Schools Council of Australia said today that new figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics confirm the continued strong contribution of the Independent school sector.

ISCA Executive Director Colette Colman today said that, "In 2016 there was a net increase of 14 Independent schools in Australia, bringing the total to 1,042. Independent student numbers grew by more than 7,000 over the same period."

The Independent school sector has been the fastest growing school sector over the last decade. In 2016 Independent schools continued to represent 14.4 per cent of all Australian school enrolments, and 18.4 per cent of all secondary enrolments.

Ms Colman added that, "In 2016 the Independent school sector also recorded the largest growth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enrolments at 5.2 per cent. This exceeds the national average of 3.7 per cent, and highlights the increasing diversity of the sector."

Independent schools reflect the social, economic and ethnic diversity of Australia. In fact, 90 per cent of Australian Independent schools are low to medium fee establishments, with the median fee of an Independent school in 2015 being less than \$4,900.

Independent schools also cater to specific groups of disadvantaged students including: high needs students with disability attending special schools; Indigenous students attending remote 100 per cent Indigenous schools in Western Australia and the Northern Territory; and highly disadvantaged urban youth who have been excluded from both government and non-government schools attending Independent special assistance schools.

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Contacts: Barry Wallett            0411 278 612  
              Brendan Walsh         0411 850 515

