

# Media Release

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Independent Schools  
Council of Australia

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## A Positive Step for Students with Disabilities

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) welcomes today's announcement by the Prime Minister and the Minister for School Education that the Government will be providing an additional \$200 million for students with disabilities.

"This funding is a welcome boost for independent schools that cater for students with disabilities," says Mr Bill Daniels, Executive Director of ISCA, "and is a further step towards ensuring that both teachers and students are better equipped to achieve the best standard of education available."

Lack of adequate funding continues to be a constraint for independent schools seeking to enrol students with disabilities and the sector welcomes the Government's commitment that all schools will be eligible for the additional funding regardless of background or circumstance."

"This funding has the potential to assist more than 12,000 students with disabilities that attend independent schools across the nation," says Mr Daniels, "and we look forward to working with the Government during the implementation of this program to ensure that some of our most needy students receive improved educational opportunities."

Enrolments of students with disabilities have increased dramatically within the independent schools sector and there is wide acknowledgment that general recurrent and targeted funding provided to non-government schools under the *Schools Assistance Act 2008*, does not adequately resource students with disabilities in independent schools.

"There has been a 90 % increase in enrolments of students with disabilities in the independent schools sector over the past decade," says Mr Daniels, "With 80% of enrolments in mainstream schools and 20% in special schools which provide alternative education settings for students with high-level needs."

"We also look forward to a positive outcome for students with disabilities following the release of the findings by the Review of Funding for Schools later this year." Mr Daniels said.

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