

Media Release

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Research Funding for School Improvement Welcomed

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) today commended the Australian Labor Party and its Shadow Minister for Education and Training, the Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, for the commitment to establish an Evidence Institute for Schools.

The need for an independent, appropriately resourced body to undertake Australian-specific research has long been recognised as a missing element in the Australian education environment.

The recent Productivity Commission Report from its Inquiry into the National Education Evidence Base highlighted the need to “develop a high-quality and relevant Australian evidence base about what works best to improve early childhood and school education outcomes and to support the use of that evidence”.

Only last week the latest report from the Grattan Institute which focused on the four key areas where the Commonwealth can make a difference in improving schools, recommended that the Commonwealth should create a national school education research organisation to investigate the most effective ways of teaching and spreading the word across schools, states and sectors.

The ISCA Executive Director Colette Colman said that “Teachers and school leaders across the school education sector would welcome greater access to the latest education research in an accessible and practical format.”

Ms Colman went on to say that “The health sector has long benefited from access to quality, evidence-based research. It is time that Australian schools were able to easily access quality, evidence-based research as well.”

“The Independent school sector is keen to work with the Shadow Minister for Education and Training to explore the potential of the Evidence Institute,” Ms Colman said.

ENDS

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