



# Independent Schools Council of Australia

## VISION

That ISCA provides national leadership and advocacy for Independent schooling in Australia.

## MISSION

To serve and support the Association of Independent Schools in each state and territory, and through them, Independent schools by:

- Advocating for Australian Government funding support which facilitates choice, diversity and innovation in Independent schools
- Representing the interests of Independent schools in national school education policy development
- Promoting the contribution made by Independent schools to the provision of quality and innovative education in Australia
- Producing communications that enhance the understanding of the Independent school sector with the Australian Government, school education stakeholders and the wider community.

## VALUES

**Collaboration** to achieve outcomes

**Respect** for the views and positions of others

**Integrity** through transparency and accountability

**Commitment** to choice, diversity and autonomy in schooling.

## CAPABILITIES

ISCA will demonstrate:

- Good governance in the practices of the Board and Secretariat with a commitment to regular review.
- Accountable management which achieves outcomes and continuous improvement consistent with the priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan.
- Efficient and effective utilisation of resources.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

### *Advocacy*

- Influence the development and implementation of national school funding policies to ensure appropriate funding for all Independent schools with particular attention to students with special needs.
- Ensure national school funding policy supports the maintenance and growth of the Independent school sector, including the state and territory Associations of Independent Schools (AISs).
- Maximise influence through:
  - Use of national and international evidence-based and data-driven research, and
  - Close collaboration with AISs and other key stakeholders.
- Engage in and influence the development of national school education policies.

### *Representation*

- Build and maintain constructive relationships with the Australian Government, national education agencies and other key stakeholders.
- Participate in and contribute to national policy development and implementation.
- Collaborate with other national and international education organisations and peak bodies.
- Utilise the skills, expertise and resources of AISs.

### *Communication*

- Develop key messages to promote community understanding of the Independent sector, including its diversity, economic and social contribution and significance for the development of school education policy.
- Engage with the media, politicians, key stakeholders, opinion leaders and the broader community utilising a range of communication strategies.
- Co-ordinate messaging and communications strategies through collaboration with AISs.
- Utilise innovative and engaging communications strategies with a focus on evidence-based and sector-specific messaging.
- Communicate accurate and reliable information about the Independent school sector and the impact of government policies on the sector.