



Media Statement

6 May 2010

Statement by Mr Bill Daniels, Executive Director, Independent Schools Council of Australia

ANAO's Simplistic Analysis of BER Enrolment Data

ISCA takes exception to the simplistic enrolment analysis undertaken by the ANAO in its BER report released yesterday. Little understanding has been shown by the ANAO of the realities of school enrolments as they progress throughout the yearly cycle.

The ANAO's analysis does not support its accusations that between 15 to 30 schools "may have managed their enrolments so as to increase their P21 entitlement" (Page 95).

The ANAO's "just above" and "just below" threshold analysis is very simplistic and does not take into account the continuing growth in many independent schools and the changes that occur in a school's enrolments during the course of a year.

Initial analysis of the BER special census and the August 2009 census data provided by DEEWR has shown that 36 independent primary schools were 2 students above the BER threshold points. Only one of these schools dropped below a BER funding threshold and then showed no growth from 2008 official figures.

Only 4 schools of the 36 did not show any enrolment changes at all from the BER special census to the August 2009 census. This demonstrates the fluctuations that occur in most independent schools during the course of a year.

ISCA asserts that these data demonstrate that independent schools do not deserve such a derogatory accusation from the ANAO.

The BER has demonstrated that the administration by Block Grant Authorities was an effective and efficient means of implementing significant government capital infrastructure investment. The BGAs have provided independent schools the necessary flexibility to meet the capital needs of each school community within the BER's policy guidelines and regulations.

Ends

Contact: James Mathews 040 741 6002

