



# Media Statement

Sunday 25 November, 2007

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

## Post-election comment

“The ALP is to be congratulated on winning government.

“A positive feature of the election campaign was the priority given to school education by the major parties. Kevin Rudd and Stephen Smith, in particular, are to be congratulated for their role in helping shift ALP policy to a point where all schools – irrespective of whether they are owned by governments or community groups – are recognised for their contribution to the education of young Australians.

“We will continue to seek opportunities to build a cooperative relationship with Kevin Rudd and Stephen Smith and look forward to working constructively with the incoming Government.

“The sector welcomed the ALP’s election commitment to continued stability in funding arrangements for the non-government sector until at least 2012, and its promise of capital support for trades skills centres and ICT capacity in all schools.

“The sector welcomes the ALP’s election commitment to include the independent sector on the proposed National Curriculum Board. While there is broad support for national consistency in schooling in the sector, we are also concerned that schools have sufficient autonomy to develop curriculum that reflects the needs of their communities. Autonomy has long been associated with the quality of education delivered by independent schools, and is especially vital in achieving good outcomes for students in Indigenous community schools, schools serving students with behavioural difficulties and other high-level needs, and schools with non-mainstream philosophies.

“As with any new government, there is still uncertainty around the status of existing arrangements, and it is not yet clear how far a Rudd government will pursue its schools agenda through conditions attached to general recurrent grants. Over-regulation of schools is of concern to the independent sector and we will pursue this issue with the new Minister. The sector will also continue to advocate for more equitable funding arrangements for students with disability.”

