

# Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Independent Schools  
Council of Australia

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## Parents want choice in schooling

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data released today show enrolments in the independent schools sector continue to grow strongly.

There were 483,330 students enrolled in independent schools in 2009, some 10,170 more than the previous year, which represents a national enrolment growth of 2.1 per cent.

The ABS figures reaffirm that the independent schools sector is the fastest growing when compared to enrolment growth of 1.1 per cent and 0.4 per cent in the Catholic and government sectors respectively. Overall total enrolments in all schools rose 0.8 per cent to 3,461,343 students.

The independent sector now accounts for 14 per cent of all school enrolments and comprises 11.2 per cent of primary level enrolments and 17.7 per cent of all secondary level enrolments.

‘The growth in the independent schools sector and in the non-government sector as a whole shows that families have become far more willing to invest their after-tax dollars in their children’s schooling,’ said Mr Daniels. ‘Parental contribution to Australian schooling through the independent sector is now worth over \$4 billion annually in operating and capital costs.’

‘The independent sector serves the full spectrum of the Australian community and plays an important role in providing the diversity in schooling options that families want,’ said Mr Daniels.

There are now 1,022 independent schools in Australia, including schools affiliated with large and small Christian denominations; non-denominational Christian schools; Islamic schools; Jewish schools; Montessori schools; Rudolf Steiner schools; indigenous community schools; schools that specialise in meeting the needs of students with disabilities; small and large day schools, metropolitan and regional boarding schools, co-educational and single-sex schools.

‘Independent schools are major providers of education. This means that as the number of students enrolled in independent schools increases, the sector is taking on a greater role in delivering educational outcomes for Australian students,’ Mr Daniels concluded.

\*\*\*Ends\*\*\*

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Number of schools by state and sector 2008-2009

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	Australia
<b>2008</b>									
Independent	334	216	174	97	138	30	21	14	1,024
Catholic	586	487	289	102	159	37	15	30	1,705
Non-government	920	703	463	199	297	67	36	44	2,729
Government	2,189	1,585	1,250	596	768	210	151	84	6,833
Total	3,109	2,288	1,713	795	1,065	277	187	128	9,562
<b>2009</b>									
Independent	330	216	176	97	138	30	21	14	1,022
Catholic	586	488	289	102	158	37	15	30	1,705
Non-government	916	704	465	199	296	67	36	44	2,727
Government	2,181	1,575	1,245	588	771	207	152	83	6,802
Total	3,097	2,279	1,710	787	1,067	274	188	127	9,529
<b>Change</b>									
Independent	-4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	-2
Catholic	0	1	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0
Non-government	-4	1	2	0	-1	0	0	0	-2
Government	-8	-10	-5	-8	3	-3	1	-1	-31
Total	-12	-9	-3	-8	2	-3	1	-1	-33

Source: ABS 'Schools Australia' 2008 and ABS 'Schools, Preliminary' 2009



Full Time (FT) enrolments by sector and state 2008-09

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	Australia
<b>Independent</b>									
2008	135,075	117,508	101,984	42,093	54,298	9,249	5,076	7,877	473,160
2009	135,895	119,014	105,203	43,586	56,976	9,235	5,259	8,162	483,330
Increase	820	1,506	3,219	1,493	2,678	-14	183	285	10,170
<b>Catholic</b>									
2008	238,834	185,666	124,628	46,895	64,412	14,062	4,806	17,274	696,577
2009	239,352	187,834	128,170	47,139	65,380	14,168	4,739	17,316	704,098
Increase	518	2,168	3,542	244	968	106	-67	42	7,521
<b>Non-Government</b>									
2008	373,909	303,174	226,612	88,988	118,710	23,311	9,882	25,151	1,169,737
2009	375,247	306,848	233,373	90,725	122,356	23,403	9,998	25,478	1,187,428
Increase	1,338	3,674	6,761	1,737	3,646	92	116	327	17,691
<b>Government</b>									
2008	734,642	535,159	479,850	162,473	230,947	58,280	29,175	34,028	2,264,554
2009	735,701	537,076	484,615	162,707	233,499	57,504	28,491	34,322	2,273,915
Increase	1,059	1,917	4,765	234	2,552	-776	-684	294	9,361
<b>All Schools</b>									
2008	1,108,551	838,333	706,462	251,461	349,657	81,591	39,057	59,179	3,434,291
2009	1,110,948	843,924	717,988	253,432	355,855	80,907	38,489	59,800	3,461,343
Increase	2,397	5,591	11,526	1,971	6,198	-684	-568	621	27,052

Source: ABS 'Schools Australia' 2008 and ABS 'Schools, Preliminary' 2009



School enrolments by sector and levels of schooling, 2009

	FT enrolments		
	Primary	Secondary	Total
<b>Independent</b>	223,055	260,275	483,330
<b>Catholic</b>	384,066	320,032	704,098
<b>Non-Government</b>	607,121	580,307	1,187,428
<b>Government</b>	1,379,607	894,308	2,273,915
<b>All Schools</b>	1,986,728	1,474,615	3,461,343
<b>% of students in each level of schooling by sector</b>			
	Primary	Secondary	Total
<b>Independent</b>	11.2%	17.7%	14.0%
<b>Catholic</b>	19.3%	21.7%	20.3%
<b>Non-Government</b>	30.6%	39.4%	34.3%
<b>Government</b>	69.4%	60.6%	65.7%
<b>All Schools</b>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>% of students in each sector by level of schooling</b>			
	Primary	Secondary	Total
<b>Independent</b>	46.1%	53.9%	100.0%
<b>Catholic</b>	54.5%	45.5%	100.0%
<b>Non-Government</b>	51.1%	48.9%	100.0%
<b>Government</b>	60.7%	39.3%	100.0%
<b>All Schools</b>	57.4%	42.6%	100.0%

Source: ABS 'Schools, Preliminary' 2009

Full-time (FT) enrolment growth by sector 1999 - 2009

