

# Media Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

29 February 2008



Independent Schools  
Council of Australia

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## Parents want choice in schooling

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

There were 457,236 students enrolled in independent schools in 2007, representing a growth in national enrolments of 3.8 per cent over 2006. Overall the net increase in students in the independent sector was 16,837 students.

The ABS figures reaffirms the trend that the independent schools sector is the fastest growing when compared to sector enrolments of 1.7 per cent and 0.9 percent in the Catholic and government sectors respectively. The ABS figures also show an increase of 18 independent schools in 2006. There are now a total of 1,025 independent schools.

'The ABS data confirm a continuing strong demand for independent schools,' said Mr Bill Daniels, Executive Director of the Independent Schools Council of Australia. 'The fact that parents have to put their hands into their own pockets to contribute to the cost of their children's education in independent schools demonstrates enormous confidence in independent schools to deliver the best for their children.'

'Independent schools are now 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 education outcomes for Australian students.'

'ISCA is encouraged that the Rudd Government has indicated that it recognises parental choice and diversity by maintaining funding arrangements for the non-government sector until at least 2012, and has promised capital support for trades skills centres and ICT capacity in all schools.'

'The government's policy platform acknowledges the role of private contribution in maintaining the current high standard of education in this country,' concluded Mr Daniels.

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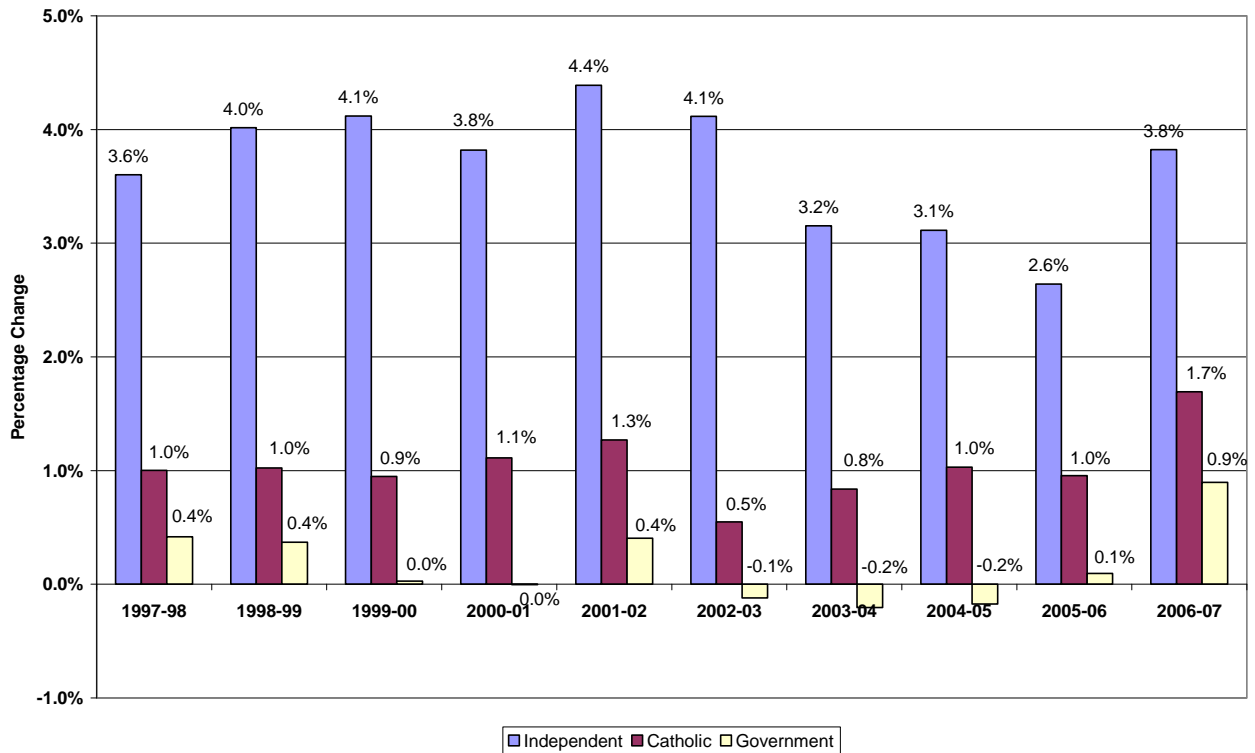
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BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND STATE AND TERRITORY CONTACTS FOLLOW.

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**Enrolment Growth by School Sector  
Full-time Students 1997 to 2007**



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## STATE AND TERRITORY ASSOCIATIONS OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

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