

# Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday 23 February 2006



Independent Schools  
Council of Australia

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## Parents want choice in schooling

Australian Bureau of Statistics data released today show enrolments in the independent schools sector have reached a new peak.

There were 429,070 students enrolled in independent schools in 2005, representing a national enrolment growth of 3.1 per cent over 2004. In the decade since 1995 independent school enrolments have grown by 46.1 per cent.

‘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.’

Research undertaken by the Independent Schools Council of Australia shows there is a range of reasons parents choose an independent school for their children’s education.

‘Factors parents cite as important in school choice are teacher quality, disciplinary code, school values that reflect those taught at home, responsiveness to students’ individual needs and a safe, stable school environment,’ said Mr Daniels.

Mr Daniels said the growth in the number of students with disabilities enrolled in independent schools in 2005 was 4.3 per cent, significantly higher than average enrolment growth in the sector.


‘The increase in the number of students with disabilities enrolling in independent schools is evidence of how well independent schools are meeting the needs of these children,’ said Mr Daniels. ‘When a student with disabilities enrolls in a non-government school, they lose access to the same level of funding support available to students with disabilities in government-owned schools. Depending on the state or territory in which students live, the funding gap can be over \$20,000 per student per year.’

Mr Daniels said students with disabilities also lose eligibility for a range of vital government services when they enrol in an independent school.

‘Achieving more equitable funding arrangements for students with disabilities is a priority for the independent sector in 2006,’ said Mr Daniels.

ENDS. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND STATE AND TERRITORY CONTACTS FOLLOW.

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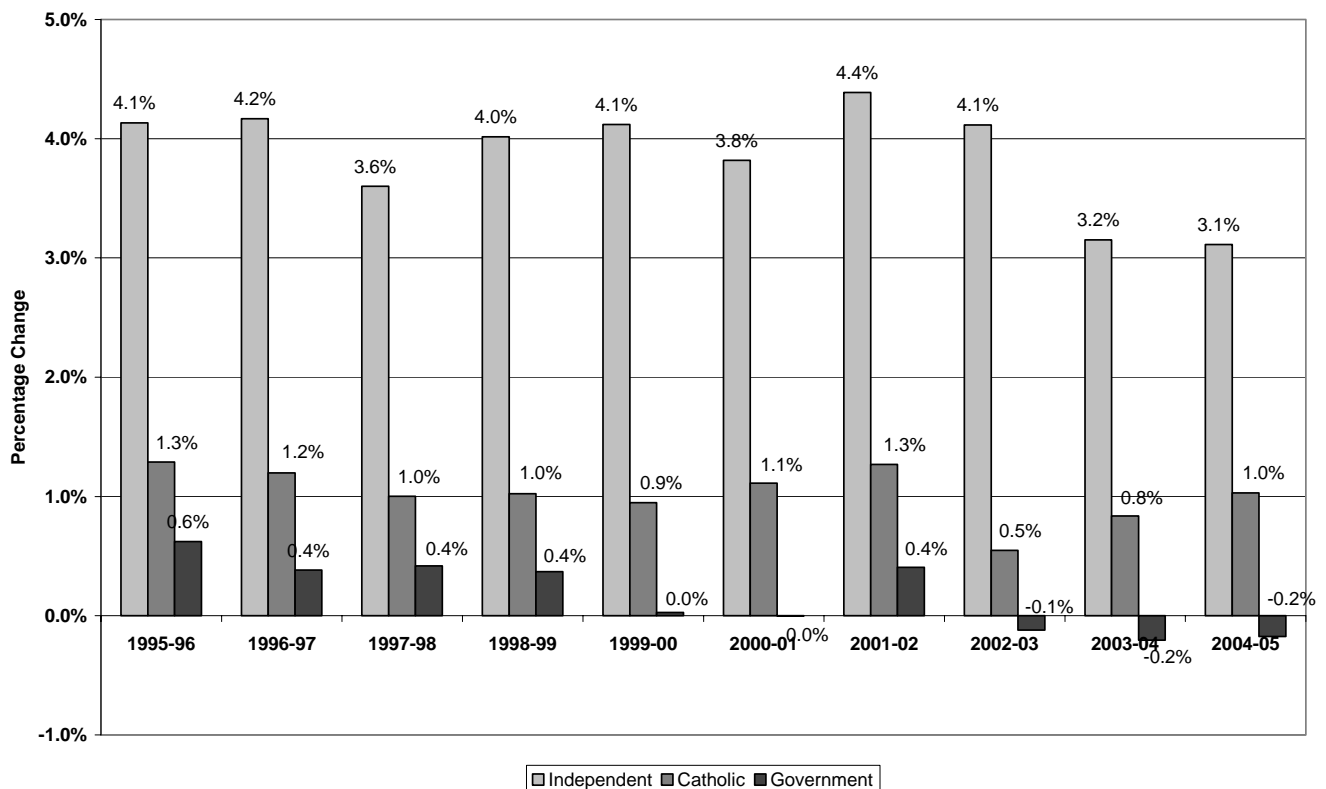
## Independent Schools 2005

### Full-time Independent School Enrolments 2005

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
Independent school students 2004	124,610	106,108	83,189	37,492	45,333	8,530	4,082	6,771	416,115
<b>Independent school students 2005</b>	<b>127,959</b>	<b>108,477</b>	<b>86,459</b>	<b>38,829</b>	<b>47,261</b>	<b>8,639</b>	<b>4,340</b>	<b>7,106</b>	<b>429,070</b>
Percentage enrolment growth 2004 - 05	2.7%	2.2%	3.9%	3.6%	4.3%	1.3%	6.3%	4.9%	<b>3.1%</b>
Per cent of total school enrolments	11.6%	13.1%	13.4%	15.6%	14.0%	10.5%	11.6%	11.9%	<b>12.8%</b>
Per cent of total secondary enrolments	14.0%	18.1%	18.1%	18.4%	19.6%	13.6%	18.0%	14.2%	<b>16.7%</b>
Per cent of total Year 11, 12 enrolments	15.4%	20.3%	20.0%	20.5%	20.4%	14.5%	11.1%	11.5%	<b>18.4%</b>

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Schools Australia 2004 and 2005

### Enrolment Growth by School Sector Full-time Students 1995 to 2005



### Number of Independent Schools 2004 - 2005

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	Australia
<b>2004</b>									
Primary only	91	56	46	42	43	4	9	3	294
Secondary only	21	16	15	8	10	np**	4	np**	76
Combined	184	124	104				7		570
Special	25	10	3				0		42
Other*				44	78	np**		np**	
<b>Total</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>982</b>
<b>2005</b>									
Primary only	88	55	46	40	43	4	9	4	289
Secondary only	28	18	15	8	12	np**	np**	np**	87
Combined	186	125	108						578
Special	25	10	3						42
Other*				46	77	np**	np**	np**	
<b>Total</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>996</b>
<b>Change</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>

Source: ABS 'Schools Australia' 2004 and 2005

\*Includes combined and special schools

\*\*Not available for publication but included in totals where applicable

ABS data show a net increase of 14 schools in the independent sector in 2005.

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