

# Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Independent Schools  
Council of Australia

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## Chaplaincy programme will help strengthen school communities

The Prime Minister's announcement today that the Australian Government will establish a National School Chaplaincy Programme was welcomed by the Independent Schools Council of Australia.

“Around 85 per cent of independent schools have a religious affiliation and many draw on the services of chaplains, religious leaders or people with specific training for religious education and pastoral care services,” said Kathryn Edwards, acting Executive Director of the Independent Schools Council of Australia. “The new programme will support this important work and the role it plays in developing strong school communities.”

Ms Edwards said that the growth of the independent schools sector is evidence that an increasing number of families are interested in an education for their children that supports the development of the whole person, including spirituality.

“Parents, while they may not themselves regularly attend formal religious services, still want their children exposed to religious and spiritual traditions,” said Ms Edwards. “Other families seek schools that reflect the religious tradition upheld in the home. All these families will see the chaplains’ programme as supporting their family’s education choices, no matter what school their children attend.”

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**Affiliation of Schools in the Independent Sector 2005**

Affiliation	Schools	Students	% of Students
Anglican	150	125,837	25.7%
Nondenominational	175	62,597	12.8%
Roman Catholic	73	50,532	10.3%
Uniting Church in Australia	43	46,184	9.4%
Christian Schools	125	43,351	8.9%
Lutheran	82	30,971	6.3%
Interdenominational	28	17,313	3.5%
Baptist	42	15,665	3.2%
Islamic	29	14,415	2.9%
Seventh Day Adventist	56	9,686	2.0%
Presbyterian	14	9,308	1.9%
Jewish	19	9,191	1.9%
Steiner	45	7,135	1.5%
Assemblies of God	15	5,894	1.2%
Pentecostal	18	5,891	1.2%
Greek Orthodox	8	4,258	0.9%
Brethren	10	3,828	0.8%
Montessori	35	3,431	0.7%
Other Catholic	7	3,304	0.7%
Other Orthodox	6	1,934	0.4%
Society of Friends	1	1,188	0.2%
Churches of Christ	2	715	0.1%
Ananda Marga	3	212	0.0%
Hare Krishna	1	51	0.0%
Other religious affiliation	6	1,910	0.4%
Other*	83	14,021	2.9%

\*Other' includes special schools, international schools, Indigenous schools and community schools.  
SOURCE: Department of Science, Education and Training. Affiliations as declared by the schools.

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