

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

29 April 2015



Independent Schools
Council of Australia

Indigenous Boarding Schools Grateful for Additional Support

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) has welcomed today's announcement by Education and Training Minister Christopher Pyne that the Australian Government will provide an additional \$5.4 million dollars this year and additional funds in 2016 to support the education of remote Indigenous students attending non-government boarding schools.

ISCA Executive Director, Dr Yvonne Luxford, said that the schools receiving this additional funding serve some of Australia's most needy students and will benefit greatly from this extra injection of funds.

"Independent schools with large numbers of Indigenous boarding students have taken on the responsibility to provide a positive and successful education experience for these students under circumstances where many are a long way from home and family", she said.

"These students need additional care and support and the results for many Independent schools are showing this supportive school environment can bring positive outcomes on attendance rates and educational achievement", Dr Luxford said.

"Resourcing is a constant battle for many of these schools. In difficult circumstances they seek to close the gaps in education, health and employment by providing a range of services that go beyond the normal reach of educational activities."

"This additional funding commitment for both the 2015 and 2016 calendar years will help support these schools in meeting the Closing the Gap targets for a significant number of Indigenous students and the Australian Government should be congratulated for recognising the value that these schools provide", Dr Luxford said.

ENDS

Contact: Barry Wallett 0411 278 612