

# Media Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Independent schools welcome Government support to school communities affected by bushfires**

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) today welcomed the Australian Government’s announcement of additional support to school communities in bushfire-declared communities. These include additional mental health support and additional funding for school chaplains.

ISCA’s Executive Director, Barry Wallett, said that, “Schools will see the impacts of the bushfires for some time and could suffer enrolment pressures as families come to grips with the loss of homes, businesses and employment as they move towards the commencement of the school year.”

There are at least 41 Independent schools close to, or in, the bushfire affected areas in NSW and Victoria alone, enrolling approximately 9,000 students.

Mr Wallett added that, “The impact of the fires will not only be limited in the areas directly affected but also could be felt by students from those areas that travel to attend schools in metropolitan areas.”

“The Government is to be commended for acting swiftly and consulting with the education sector. We look forward to working with them to help lessen the impact on affected school communities.”

ENDS

Contact: Barry Wallett 0411 278 612

Brendan Walsh 0411 850 515