

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday 28 January 2020



Independent schools welcome further Government support to drought-affected schools

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) today welcomed the Australian Government's announcement that it will double its support for non-government schools that cater for students in drought-affected areas to \$20 million.

ISCA's Chief Executive Officer, Dr David Mulford, today said that, "The assistance provided by the Government will help ensure that students from communities struggling to cope with drought will continue to be supported to maintain their school education. Independent schools have a long history of supporting rural families and communities through drought and natural disaster. This has included measures such as fee relief."

There are 376 Independent schools in Australia's rural, regional or remote areas. In addition, Independent schools are the largest providers of boarding school education in Australia, educating almost 16,000 students. Many of these students come from rural, regional and remote families affected by drought.

Dr Mulford added that, "The Government is to be commended for taking action to ease the financial burden the drought has placed on families, schools in drought-affected areas, and the boarding schools educating students from those areas."

The additional \$10 million to drought-affected schools announced today will be managed through the \$57 million Drought Communities Programme going to eligible drought-affected councils across the country.

ENDS

Contact: Barry Wallett 0411 278 612

Brendan Walsh 0411 850 515