

# Media Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS  
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA**

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## **Independent schools support National Cabinet Principles around COVID-19 complexities**

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) welcomes the Prime Minister's support for an early resumption of normal school operations and the importance of face to face education for students. This will look different in the diverse contexts in which schools operate, said Dr David Mulford, CEO of ISCA.

Independent schools are facing a complex and unprecedented challenge in delivering education to close to 600,000 students at more than 1,000 schools across the nation.

Dr Mulford said Independent schools that were already delivering remote and online education to students, and those that will do so whenever their term 2 commences, recognised that this was far from ideal and not sustainable in the long term.

'We agree with the Prime Minister that Australia can't afford to let our young people lose a year of their education,' Dr Mulford said.

'All of those involved in Independent education agree that face-to-face learning, delivered by teachers in the dynamic environment that only schools can provide, is the optimal way to deliver education.

'This is something all schools are looking forward to resuming - as soon as health experts all advise that it is safe to do so. Schools are dealing with conflicting needs of parents in a range of situations and the various advice being received by the numerous authorities. Schools must address the genuine health and safety concerns of their students and staff.

'In the meantime, schools are operating in an extremely complex and difficult environment.

'They are operating under two models. Delivery of the same curriculum by using technology with students at home (by many methods), and in supervised physical settings at school. This divides the staff resources and creates complexities for schools. Schools and teachers from all sectors have been under enormous strain in this crisis. They should be congratulated.

Independent schools look forward to ongoing cooperation between the Federal Government and State and Territory Governments for the ongoing provision of a positive learning environment for all young Australians'.

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