

# Media Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Independent schools welcome Government support to bring forward recurrent funding**

The Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) welcomes the announcement by the Minister for Education, the Hon Dan Tehan MP, that Independent schools will have the option to apply for their July 2020 recurrent funding payment from the Australian Government to be brought forward to May and June 2020.

Dr David Mulford, CEO of ISCA, said that, “The Independent sector greatly appreciates this offer as it will help to alleviate some major cash flow issues facing many schools resulting from the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

“It is important to note that this is not a handout,” said Dr Mulford. “It is simply a matter of adjusting the timing of one of the regular scheduled payments to assist in effective financial management by schools. It will have no extra cost to Government, but it will make a big difference in helping schools wrestle with the complexities of the COVID -19 impact.”

Minister Tehan’s announcement outlines that Independent schools and systems can access up to 25 per cent of their total annual recurrent funding, due as two separate payments in late May and early June. To be eligible for the first payment of 12.5 per cent, Independent schools will need to be currently open for physical campus learning in term two, and will have a plan to fully reopen classroom teaching by 1 June. For the second payment schools will need to commit to achieving 50 per cent of their students attending classroom-based learning by 1 June 2020.

Dr Mulford said, “While the health and safety of all students and staff remain of the utmost priority, Independent schools remain supportive of the Government’s intention to reopen schools in a timely manner and look forward to working cooperatively with the Government to restore face-to-face learning as soon as practicable.”

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