



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: TUESDAY 8 MARCH 2022

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS START EARLY

Teaching students about respectful relationships is a key component of the cultural shift Australia needs.

Independent Schools Australia (ISA) supports Labor's pledge today to invest \$77 million in teaching students what respectful relationships look like.

ISA Chief Executive Officer, Ms Margery Evans said today, "On International Women's Day, many reflect on how much more we need to do to protect women and children from violence.

"The pledge by Labor would enable schools to better support students in learning what respectful behaviour looks like, and what consent means.

"Additional training for teachers and access to specialised expertise would help teachers support students as they navigate these sensitive and complex issues.

The Commonwealth Government announced (6 March 2022) funding for a range of programs also intended to prevent violence against women and children. The Commonwealth's commitment includes funding for a survey of secondary school students on issues related to consent.

"We welcome any investment in teaching children about positive relationships," said Ms Evans.

"Schools are ideal sites for fostering respectful relationships.

"Teachers are continually observing and guiding students, so we welcome the acknowledgement of the important role they play.

"With the right expertise and age-appropriate programs, schools can be part of the shift in attitudes that Australia needs," Ms Evans said.

ENDS

ISA media contact:

Anne Walker, 02 6282 3488 | M 0419 505889 | E comms@isa.edu.au