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## **Independent School Communities Welcome Funding Pledge by LNP**

Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ) has today welcomed an election commitment by an LNP-led Queensland Government for funding certainty in non-state schools.

The recurrent funding pledge responds to a key election request put forward by independent school communities in their 2020 election statement.

ISQ Executive Director David Robertson said independent school communities valued the partnership they have forged with successive Queensland Governments and the ongoing funding support for non-state schools.

“ISQ welcomes the LNP’s commitment to retain the current level of recurrent funding at 22.45% of the Schooling Resource Standing (SRS) for non-government schools over the next four years, to provide funding certainty,” Mr Robertson said.

“This is a welcome investment in Queensland independent schools particularly during the COVID-19 economic crisis when independent school communities have rallied to support members of their community who are facing financial hardship due to the pandemic, floods and the ongoing drought.”

Mr Robertson said recurrent funding stability is crucial especially as independent schools are transitioning to a new school funding model that has potential for greater volatility and uncertainty from year to year.

The LNP has also committed to provide the Queensland Independent Schools Parents Network with \$100,000 per year funding for the four-year term of Government in response to a request in the ISQ election statement.

“Queensland independent school partnerships with parents are strong, this pledge to increase funding to the QIS Parents Network to enhance parent engagement in student learning is most welcome,” Mr Robertson said.

A strong and growing independent schooling sector, backed by the significant private investment of Queensland families, delivered a substantial economic return on the public funding provided by the Queensland Government.

“Queensland’s network of more than 210 independent schools support more than 33,000 full-time jobs and generate almost \$4.9 billion in economic benefits through their operations, infrastructure programs and purchase of other services in the economy,” he said. “Independent schools have an important role to play in Queensland’s social and economic recovery.”

**MEDIA CONTACT | Charlene Stephenson | 3228 1554 | [cstephenson@isq.qld.edu.au](mailto:cstephenson@isq.qld.edu.au)**