

January 2020

Media Release

Back to School 2020 – New Independent Schools and Campuses

Queensland's independent schooling sector is continuing its growth trajectory with eight new schools and campuses set to open in the first half of 2020.

The Non-State Schools Accreditation Board has approved four new independent schools and four new campuses at existing schools to open in Semester 1. This brings the total number of independent schools in 2020 to 216 operating across more than 250 campuses. See list of new schools and campuses below.

Independent Schools Queensland Executive Director David Robertson said Queensland parents valued school choice as evidenced by the ongoing growth in student and school numbers in the independent sector.

"In 2020, independent school enrolments are expected to rise to 129,000 students – about, 5,000 more than the start of the 2019 school year," Mr Robertson said.

"The additional enrolments include about 3,000 in projected annual growth and a further 2,000 from the sector returning to a full cohort of students across every year level for the first time in 13 years. This follows the graduation of the state's smaller-than-usual first group of Prep students at the end of 2019," he said.

"Parents have entrusted the education of their children to Queensland independent schools for generations. They value the tailored learning approaches, quality teaching and commitment by schools to support students to reach their full potential."

Queensland Independent Schools Parents Network Executive Officer Justine Cirocco said one of the independent sector's many strengths was its diversity.

"There's a school for every child to thrive. I'd like to welcome all parents enrolling their children in our newest independent schools and campuses. I encourage you to develop positive and respectful relationships with your child's teachers and to be an active partner in your child's 13-year school journey," she said.

"Decades of research has shown that students perform better academically, stay in school longer, are more engaged in their homework, behave better in class, have better social skills, are more motivated to learn and go on to higher study when their parents are engaged in their education."

All new non-state schools must meet an extensive list of accreditation criteria before they are approved to operate by the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board. Existing independent schools opening new campuses or changing aspects related to their accreditation must also obtain Board approval.

In addition to the eight new independent schools and campuses approved to open in Semester 1, a further six new independent schools have applied for accreditation. Their applications are being considered by the Board.

The majority of Queensland schools will start the new school year from the week commencing Tuesday 28 January. However, some independent schools may have different start dates. Parents should check commencement dates with individual schools.

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NEW APPROVED INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Ipswich

[Australian Industry Trade College \(AITC\)](#) will open a new school in Ipswich. It is the fifth AITC campus in Queensland. About 110 students in Years 10 and 11 are expected to start at the Ipswich campus in 2020 with Year 12s to follow in 2021.

Gold Coast

[Men of Business Academy](#) - a new independent Special Assistance School for disengaged and at-risk students is due to open in April 2020. The school will cater for boys in Years 11 and 12.

[Queensland Football School](#) – a new co-educational school for students in Year 4-12 with a specialist focus on football. The school has been approved to open but is waiting on approval for a change of location.

Fraser Coast

[Hervey Bay Future School](#) – a co-educational Prep-Year 10 school has been approved to open in 2020. The school plans to open with Prep-Year 9 students in April and will extend into Year 10 in 2021.

NEW CAMPUSES APPROVED FOR EXISTING SCHOOLS

Logan

[King's Christian College](#) (Gold Coast) has been approved to open a new Prep-Year 12 campus in Logan Village. It will commence in 2020 with about 80 students in Prep-Year 3.

Fraser Coast

[Bayside Christian College](#) (Hervey Bay) has been approved to open a new campus at Nikenbah for Years 10-12 students. It is due to open in July 2020 with students in Years 11 and 12.

Redlands and Moreton Bay

[YMCA Vocational School](#) – an independent Special Assistance School which specialises in the education of disengaged and at-risk students will open a new campus at Victoria Point for students in Years 10-12 and another one at Mango Hill for students in Years 7-9 in 2020. This will bring to seven, the number of YMCA Vocational School sites operating across the state.

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