



**Independent Schools  
Queensland**

choice & diversity



# Supporting Queensland's Thriving Independent School Sector

2024 State Election Statement  
Key Recommendations

ISQ's election statement is focused on three key areas where appropriate government support and regulation will be critical in enabling the independent sector to grow and flourish across the state.



## 1. Proactive Planning for New Schools

### Recommendation 1.1

Assist the non-government sector in meeting demand for new classrooms and school buildings amidst ongoing increases in construction costs by:

- Merging the CAS and CASS funds into a single ongoing commitment of \$190m per annum, indexed annually by the rise in construction costs.
- Continue the EIS fund to support schools meet the ever-increasing conditions and infrastructure requirements being placed on them by local governments.

### Recommendation 1.2

Establish a School Planning and Delivery Taskforce with representatives from the Independent, Catholic and State School sectors along with Treasury, Economic Development Queensland, the Department of Education and the Department of Planning.

This Taskforce should immediately look how the planning system can be better calibrated to prioritise land for new schools where they are needed now and into the future. The Taskforce should also explore new policy approaches to remove the existing barriers to the establishment of new schools.



## 2. Growing and Retaining the Education Workforce

### Recommendation 2.1

Enhance the impact of the Trade to Teach program by allowing participants to undertake training opportunities and teaching roles in all three sectors, effectively opening opportunities for more participants and growing the overall education workforce.

### Recommendation 2.2

Reduce duplicate data collection by ceasing the costly Non-Government School State Census collection, in turn reducing the administrative burden on teachers and school leaders.

### Recommendation 2.3

Recurrent annual funding of \$180,000 with CPI increases annually for the Queensland Independent

Schools Parents Network. This certainty of funding will support QIS Parents Network's work to enhance parent engagement in independent school communities through a range of initiatives and programs.

Also, consider enhancing cross-sector collaboration in parent engagement to aid schools, parents, and teachers in supporting students.

### Recommendation 2.4

Expand relevant teaching scholarship programs, such as the Pearl Duncan Teaching Scholarship and the Aspiring Teacher Grant, to include placements within the independent schooling sector to help alleviate teacher shortages in all schools located in regional, rural and remote parts of the state.



## 3. Ongoing Support for a Diverse Independent Sector

### Recommendation 3.1

Raise the ICSEA score to qualify for the School 2 Work Transition program from 900 to 1000, effectively seeing the number of eligible Special Assistance Schools jump from 9 schools to all 25 SAS schools in Queensland.

### Recommendation 3.2

Support the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) to establish itself as the certification body for all HALTs in Queensland.

### Recommendation 3.3

Extend the state-school-only Student Wellbeing Package (wellbeing workforce increases + GPs in schools) to the non-government school sectors.

### Recommendation 3.4

Implement a fit-for-purpose model which allows all non-government schools to participate in Queensland's offshore curriculum delivery arrangements, ensuring schools are not being unduly burdened in this process by legislation.

### Recommendation 3.5

Continue to implement the recommendations of the Non-State Schools Accreditation Framework Review 2024.

Read ISQ's full 2024 State Election Statement at [www.isq.qld.edu.au/news-advocacy/advocacy/state-election-2024/](http://www.isq.qld.edu.au/news-advocacy/advocacy/state-election-2024/).

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