

2 November 2020

## Media Release

### Independent School Peak Bodies Look Forward to Continuing Strong Working Partnership with Palaszczuk Government

Queensland independent school communities are looking forward to continuing their strong working partnership with the Palaszczuk Government over the next four years, according to the sector's peak bodies.

Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ) Executive Director David Robertson said once the official 2020 state election results and ministerial portfolios had been confirmed, the sector would continue its productive working ties with the Government which had strengthened even further in response to the challenges of COVID-19.

Mr Robertson welcomed the Palaszczuk Government's pledge to provide \$180 million in infrastructure funding (in addition to baseline funding) over three years for independent and Catholic schools – a key election request put forward by the independent sector.

"ISQ will prioritise talks with the government to confirm the details and implementation timetable for the \$15 million in new funding allocated to the non-state school Capital Assistance Supplementary Scheme (up from \$45 million annually to \$60 million)," he said.

"Queensland's 218 independent schools are an important and valued part of Queensland's education system, educating about 1 in 7 school-age students."

Mr Robertson said for every \$1 of capital funding provided by governments (state and federal) independent school communities generated a further \$9 in private expenditure and borrowings.

"This type of multiplier investment effect means more jobs are supported and created in the economy which is crucial to the state's ongoing COVID-19 recovery."

Queensland Independent Schools Parents Network (QIS Parents Network) Executive Officer Justine Cirocco thanked the Palaszczuk Government for its commitment to increase funding for parent engagement.

Ms Cirocco said the government had pledged to lift its contribution to the QIS Parents Network by \$33,800 to \$100,000 annually over the term of government.

"These funds will go a long way towards continuing the positive projects and research which are already occurring in the sector to enhance school-family partnerships with the ultimate goal being to improve student learning and wellbeing," she said.

"More than 50 years of research has shown that parents – when they are supported by their schools and teachers with practical strategies to help their children's learning at home – can positively influence their child's academic outcomes, school attendance, behaviour, confidence and motivation."

**Media contact | Justine Nolan | 0428 612 315 | [jnolan@isq.qld.edu.au](mailto:jnolan@isq.qld.edu.au)**