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Qld State Budget Supports Student Outcomes & Parent Choice in Schooling

Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ) has welcomed two new schooling initiatives announced in the 2017-18 Queensland State Budget and the State Government's ongoing support for non-state schools.

ISQ Executive Director David Robertson said the Government had allocated \$206.9 million over 2018-19 to 2020-21 to support improved teaching and learning in schools and to ensure Queensland's smaller group of foundation Prep Year students, who will enter Year 11 in 2018, can access a broad range of senior secondary subjects.

"Non-state schools are expected to receive an estimated \$21 million over four years from the *Maintaining Senior Curriculum Offerings for Students in the Prep Half Cohort* and *Advancing Teaching and Learning* initiatives through the basket-nexus funding arrangements," Mr Robertson said.

"I am pleased the State Government has recognised the challenges that schools offering senior secondary will face in 2018 when Queensland's first-ever Prep students, which were a smaller group because of the introduction of Prep and changes to the school starting age, enter Year 11," he said.

"The additional funding will support schools in providing a full range of senior secondary subjects for this group of students in 2018 and 2019."

Mr Robertson welcomed the Queensland Government's ongoing support for parent choice in schooling with the allocation of almost \$800 million to non-state schools including \$687.6 million in recurrent assistance and \$92.5 million in capital grants.

"The level of support for non-state schools has increased by about 4 percent over the 2016-17 Budget reflecting the continued growth in non-state schools," he said.

Mr Robertson said independent schools welcomed the continuation of the basket-nexus funding arrangements for non-state schools whereby recurrent funding assistance is linked to a percentage of expenditure by the Queensland Government on state schools.

"At a time when there are some uncertainties over future Australian Government funding for independent schools, stability in state funding is important," he said.

Mr Robertson said independent schools made an important contribution to education in Queensland, the future life opportunities of students and the economic prosperity of the state.

"This Budget acknowledges and continues support for the vital role non-state schools play in the provision of high quality schooling in regional and metropolitan Queensland," he said.

"ISQ looks forward to receiving more detail on the new Budget initiatives and to working with Queensland Education Minister Kate Jones on their implementation and the roll-out of funding to independent schools."

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