



Independent Schools  
Queensland

choice & diversity

# Governance

AN ISQ FLAGSHIP PROGRAM





The Governance Flagship Program expresses Independent Schools Queensland's commitment to support schools and their boards in attaining good governance. It reflects our goal to champion independent schools to serve their communities.

**CHRISTOPHER MOUNTFORD**  
CEO, Independent Schools Queensland

## **Independent Schools Queensland provides tailored services and professional development to support school boards and leadership teams to govern effectively and confidently.**

The independent schooling sector is diverse and offers extraordinary choice to parents. This diversity is reflected in the variety of governance arrangements that can be found in independent schools.

The future and health of the independent schooling sector are dependent on the stewardship of its governing bodies. The skills and experiences of governing body members are critical to the growth, health and innovative spirit of the independent schooling sector and for education provision as a whole.

Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ) is the specialist independent school governance service provider, equipping governing body members and leaders with the latest information and advice on effective school governance practices.

Services within the Governance Flagship Program include:

- School governance training, including the industry leading School Governance Course
- Governance review services
- Strategic planning facilitation
- Governance research and thought leadership
- Board resources.

The Governance Flagship Program is designed and delivered by industry experts and based on industry recognised best-practice and corporate governance standards. It acknowledges the unique aspects of school governance including a strong focus on purpose-driven strategy, the engagement of parents and students as key stakeholders, and the unique role of principals as educators and CEOs.

# Programs

## School Governance Course

The ISQ School Governance Course is the leading governance training option for Queensland's independent schooling sector. This industry-specific, comprehensive training program is designed for school governing body members and senior executives who want to place their governance capabilities on a firm foundation. Successful completion of the ISQ School Governance Course empowers participants to confidently fulfil their governance duties and add value to their organisation.

More details can be found in our School Governance Training brochure.

## School Governance Events

ISQ offers regular school governance events to target specific stages of the school governance journey. School governance induction workshops provide an initial orientation to governing body members new to the independent schooling sector. School governance masterclasses provide opportunities for deep engagement with matters of current interest to school boards. Board chair lunches facilitate networking opportunities between board chairs and ISQ. Finally, the ISQ Governance Forum is Queensland's premier school governance event that advances thought leadership about effective school governance across the sector.

## Board Review

An ISQ Board Review is designed to assist school boards to understand their effectiveness and explore ways to improve the positive contribution they make. It provides actionable insights and recommendations by respected industry experts based on an assessment against a leading governance framework.

## Strategic Planning Facilitation

ISQ's strategic planning services assist boards in the task of reviewing, rewriting and monitoring the implementation of their strategic plans. Our facilitators have extensive education industry experience and use robust facilitation techniques that assist schools to craft their next strategic plan.

## Bespoke Governance Review

ISQ offers school boards bespoke governance reviews that allow them to focus on specific areas such as enterprise risk management, compliance frameworks, executive oversight, board processes and more.

## Bespoke School Governance Training

The needs of each school board are diverse. ISQ can develop and deliver a training program that delivers the skills your board desires, to a schedule that fits around board meetings, retreats or training days.

These are fee-for-service offerings available to all ISQ member schools.



The ISQ School Governance Course is essential training for any board member, new or old.

Case studies allow for rigorous discussion in a safe and supportive environment. The course is delivered by multiple staff, who share up to date information, in order to give expert advice.

It will definitely help you to you swim when thrown in the deep end!

ISQ School Governance Course graduate



# Services and Tools

## Resources

ISQ offers a range of templates, tools and checklists designed to support independent school boards to establish and maintain effective governance practices.

Template policies assist boards in establishing a compliant and effective governance framework. Governance resources include:

- Template board policies and charters
- Director manual
- Board induction manual
- Key legislative accountability insights
- Funding, government reporting and accreditation information.

## Research

ISQ publishes research to inform approaches to governance best practice in the independent school sector.

Members have access to an extensive range of recommended reading for governors. Some of this research includes:

- *Effective School Governance* (Oct 2018)
- *Understanding Through Research: Exploring Effective School Governance* (Sept 2018)
- *Innovation for Sustainability: New Approaches to Strategic Thinking for Independent Schools* (Aug 2016).

## Online Courses for Self-Paced Learning

Online courses and modules have been developed specifically for board directors in independent schools.

These can be accessed via ISQ's Connect&Learn:

- **Governance Finance**
  - The Balance Sheet
  - The Income and Expenditure Statement
  - The Cash Flow Statement
  - Ratio Analysis
- **Governance Induction**
  - An Independent School Context
  - Governance Roles and Responsibilities
  - Governance Policies and Processes
- **Child Protection - Principals & Board Directors**

These services are available free-of-charge to all ISQ member schools.

## The Benefits of ISQ Governance Services to School Boards

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Access governance advice and training specifically addressing the needs of independent school governors.

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Be confident that your governing body is meeting the compliance obligations of independent schools.

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Understand your personal liability as a director.

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Master the skills you need to set the strategic direction of the school.

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Build your toolkit of frameworks and processes to assess and monitor risk and set targeted policies.

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Get access to practical tools to recruit, monitor, assess and review your principal's performance.

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Learn how to review and evaluate the performance of the board.

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Stay on top of latest industry trends and directions.

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## Contact us

Schools wishing to access services under the ISQ Governance Flagship Program may do so by application at any time.

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**To find out more, visit**  
[www.isq.qld.edu.au/schools/governors](http://www.isq.qld.edu.au/schools/governors)

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