



Independent Schools  
Queensland

choice & diversity

# Our Schools Our Future

AN ISQ FLAGSHIP PROGRAM





Keeping abreast of the key issues that impact on our schools and particularly the enrolment and hence financial base of our schools, is vital. *Our Schools – Our Future* research provides current, well researched information that can inform our leadership and work in each of our schools.

**KAREN SPILLER OAM CF**

**Principal of John Paul College and  
Chair of Independent Schools Queensland Board**

## Independent Schools Queensland promotes informed public policy debate about schooling through the flagship program, *Our Schools – Our Future*.

ISQ's *Our Schools – Our Future* research-focussed flagship program explores trends and issues across key areas that impact the nature and performance of independent schools across the state.

The program has a particular focus on the contribution of independent schools to education provision and student outcomes, as well as examining issues relevant to the development and implementation of effective public policy for schooling as a whole.

Research provides public policy makers and school educators with current data and industry-leading thinking on issues including:

- school education reform
- enrolment trends
- sustainability and affordability
- impact of federal-state government relations
- school infrastructure
- curriculum innovation.

ISQ's Research Framework articulates a set of adopted principles of research, the role of research within and across the spectrum of ISQ's activities, and the relationship between identified priority research themes and ISQ's strategic directions.

# Research

ISQ has published commissioned and internal research as part of the *Our Schools – Our Future* program since 2013.

## LATEST RESEARCH

### ENGAGING PARENTS AND COMMUNITIES IN CHILDREN'S LEARNING AND WELLBEING: EPIC 2021 REPORT (NOV 2021)

Prepared by Dr Linda-Dianne Willis, Professor Beryl Exley and Narelle Daffurn. This paper adds to a growing body of research supporting parent engagement and understanding the powerful impact this can have on students' achievement and wellbeing. It also provides rich examples of effective parent engagement strategies and approaches at the classroom level.

### SCHOOL LEADERS' AND STAFF WELLBEING IS CRITICAL FOR STUDENT SUCCESS (NOV 2021)

Prepared by Prof Donna Cross. This research paper provides recommendations and practical actions to protect and promote the wellbeing of school leaders and staff, and to support staff who may be experiencing difficulties with their mental health and wellbeing.

### REFLECTIONS ON TEACHING AND LEARNING DURING COVID-19 IN QUEENSLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS (JUNE 2021)

Prepared by Dr Natasha Ziebell and Dr Lucy Robertson. This paper presents a reflective perspective from our member schools, analysing valuable insights into both the positives and negatives for staff and students, and their families, of this unprecedented period of disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



# Reports

## SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE RESEARCH AND ISSUES PAPERS

### INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INFRASTRUCTURE: PLANNING TO MAINTAIN CHOICE – 2019 UPDATE (OCT 2019)

Prepared by Dr Deidre Thian, this paper builds on the earlier report released in 2017. The report identified where and when new independent school facilities will be needed to cater for the sector's share of 263,000 extra school-aged children projected to be living in Queensland by 2036.

**Also available:** *Independent Schools Infrastructure: Planning to Maintain Choice* (AUG 2017)

### FINANCING SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE – DISCUSSION PAPER (APR 2015)

Prepared by Michael E. Drew and Adam N. Walk. This discussion paper introduces potential options for sourcing private capital to support the development of future school infrastructure.

## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL FAMILIES RESEARCH AND ISSUES PAPERS

### ENGAGING PARENTS IN THEIR CHILD'S LEARNING AND WELLBEING: CHANGE, CONTINUITY, AND COVID-19 (OCT 2020)

Prepared by Dr Linda-Dianne Willis and Prof Beryl Exley. This issues paper examines how the home learning period strengthened parent engagement in six areas.

### WHAT PARENTS WANT (FEB 2019)

This report is the fourth in a longitudinal study, commencing in 1996, examining the decision-making process parents undertake when choosing an independent school, including cultural influences, sources of information, and the important factors that guide school choice.

**Also available:** *What Parents Want* (2015, 2011, 2007)

### INCOME LEVELS OF FAMILIES WITH STUDENTS IN QUEENSLAND SCHOOLS (NOV 2017)

Independent schools offer a diversity of education approaches and serve an equally wide range of students and families, from low and high socioeconomic backgrounds.

## SECTOR IMPACT RESEARCH AND ISSUES PAPERS

### TRENDS BOOK: 2020 EDITION (SEPT 2020)

The *Trends Book: 2020 Edition* is the second in the series. It prompts discussions with leaders to consider the impacts of environment, community and policy on a school's future.

Also available: *Trends Book: 2018 Edition* (AUG 2018)

### ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS TO THE QUEENSLAND ECONOMY (JUNE 2020)

Prepared by AEC Group. This is the second report to quantify the economic contribution independent schools make to Queensland.

Also available: *Economic Significance of Independent Schools to the Queensland Economy* (MAR 2016)

### TRENDS IN INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT – 2019 UPDATE (DEC 2019)

Prepared by John Somerset, this report examines the data underlying the financial operations of independent schools and provides a comprehensive overview of factors that drive costs.

Also available: *Trends in Income & Expenditure at Independent Schools 2012-2016* (MAR 2018)

### SCHOOLS SPEAKING FOR THEMSELVES – TELLING THE REAL STORY (MAY 2018)

This is the second iteration of *Schools Speaking for Themselves* which was first published in 2010. This issues paper examines how schools can communicate the balance between the media league tables and what schools really do to achieve outcomes for their students.

### TAXING OUR FUTURE: IMPLICATIONS OF IMPOSING EXTRA TAXES ON SCHOOL EDUCATION (AUG 2015)

Prepared by leading economist, Dr Mikayla Novak, this paper evaluates the financial and social impact of increased taxes on independent schooling.

## CURRICULUM RESEARCH AND ISSUES PAPERS

### LEADING CURRICULUM INNOVATION – A DISCUSSION PAPER (NOV 2016)

This paper encourages discussion and reflection on the design and delivery of the P-10 Australian Curriculum in Queensland.

## EDUCATION REFORM RESEARCH AND ISSUES PAPER

### A CATALYST FOR CHANGE (JULY 2020)

Prepared by Prof Jim Watterston and Prof Yong Zhao. This issues paper considers the future of schooling and six positive opportunities for change.

### QUEENSLAND'S EDUCATION FUTURE: CONTINUING THE REFORM AGENDA (JUNE 2017)

Nine areas are put forward in this paper, with each area divided into evidence, independent sector examples, current priorities, and future focus.

### REFORM OF THE FEDERATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS (APR 2015)

Prepared by Federalism expert, Professor Kenneth Wiltshire AO, this paper examines the impact for independent schools should the funding and policy responsibilities be transferred totally to the states.



Contact us

Member schools have access to all *Our Schools – Our Future* reports on the ISQ member hub.

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**To find out more, visit**  
[www.isq.qld.edu.au/publications-resources/categories/research](http://www.isq.qld.edu.au/publications-resources/categories/research)

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