

First Nations Student Support Program



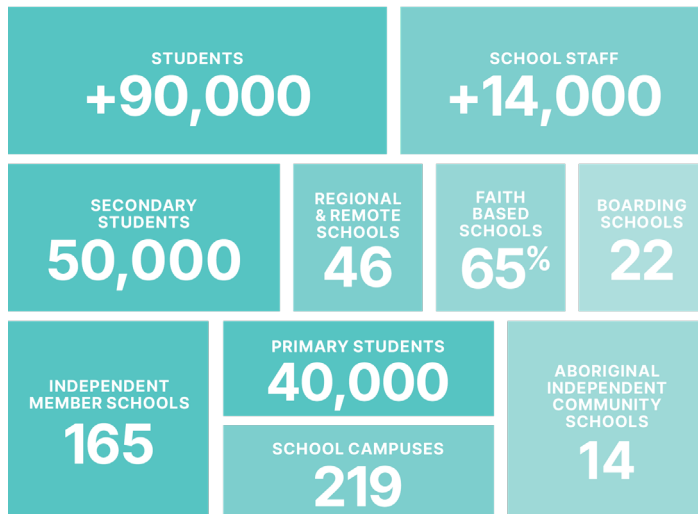
Leading, serving,
and advocating for
the WA Independent
Education sector.

About AISWA

The Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia (AISWA) was established in 1962 as a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to supporting, representing, and promoting the interests of Independent Schools across Western Australia (WA). AISWA represents 158 Independent schools with over 89,000 students, which accounts for 18.2% of WA's school enrolments and nearly 14,000 staff.

AISWA's mission is to lead, serve, represent, and advocate for the WA Independent School sector. The organisation celebrates "Strength in Diversity," supporting a broad range of schools and educational organisations. Collectively, AISWA complements the state's educational ecosystem.

Independent schools vary widely in terms of geography, demographics, faith, culture, and educational philosophy, ranging from remote schools to metropolitan boarding schools. This diversity ensures that families can find educational settings that align with their values and their child's unique needs.



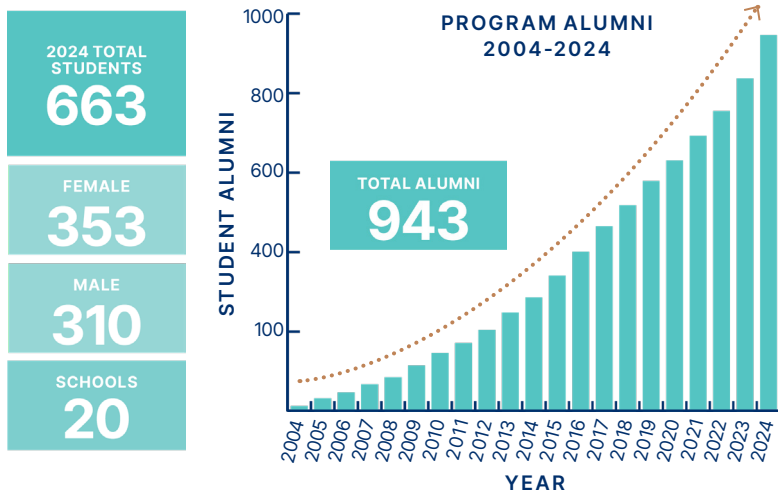


About AISWA Future Footprints

The AISWA Future Footprints program is an initiative of AISWA, established in 2004. The program has been providing holistic support to First Nations students attending Independent Schools across Western Australia for 20 years. As the longest serving Independent school Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander support program we have built strong partnerships with schools and informed by extensive consultation with Elders, students, families, graduates, and community representatives.

The primary goal of the program is to ensure positive engagement of First Nation students with the education system, to enhance their sense of belonging and self-worth within the education system, and provide students with the confidence, knowledge, and skills to succeed. AISWA Future Footprints is based on an Aboriginal Family Model, of peer support and leadership.

This program empowers generations to become changemakers through holistic practices that foster positive impacts. It plays a crucial role in the state's education system, ensuring First Nations students have access to quality learning opportunities through the independent sector.



AISWA FUTURE FOOTPRINTS PROGRAM





Current AISWA Future Footprints Program

The AISWA Future Footprints program supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their families during the transition to boarding school, offering four interconnected levels of support:

1. Support for Students

Assistance with adapting to boarding school routines, guidance with enrolment, travel, and ABSTUDY requirements, and hosting student-focused events such as mid-term camps.

2. Support for Families, Teachers, and Boarding Staff

Collaboration with parents, families, and educators to enhance teaching strategies and embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, knowledge, and histories. This includes offering professional learning opportunities and fostering strategies that unlock student potential.

3. Whole School Support

Guidance for schools in developing and evaluating practices and policies, including the creation and review of Reconciliation Action Plans and mapping cultural content across curricula (K-12).

4. Systemic Support

Advocacy with government departments and non-governmental organisations to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and schools. This involves building relationships with community representatives, support agencies, and research projects.

Program Information

Each year Future Footprints coordinates a number of initiatives and events that bring together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from participating schools. Future Footprints has also assisted schools in establishing their own school-based programs, which form an important part of the schools' culture and foster great pride within the Independent School community.

KEY EVENTS:

1. Educator Support

- **Four Coordinators' Forums:** Regular sessions for sharing best practices.
- **Dedicated Team Access:** Support from experienced First Nations educators.

2. Support for Families and Students

- **Annual Welcome to Country:** Inclusive events to welcome students and their families.
- **Careers EXPO:** Opportunities to explore career paths and engage with potential employers, focusing on First Nations pathways.
- **Year 12 Celebrations:** Events to celebrate the achievements of graduates.
- **Ongoing Support Services:** Continuous assistance for students and families.

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Acknowledgement of Country

AISWA respectfully acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we operate, the Wadjak people of the Noongar nation. We pay our respects to Aboriginal Elders past, present, and emerging, as the Traditional Owners of the lands across Australia and acknowledge their continued connection to the land, waters, and community.

We recognise that a strong and mutually beneficial relationship with Traditional Owners is essential to our success and to the benefit of our community. In all our actions, we commit to fostering cultural awareness and working collaboratively towards a shared future of reconciliation, respect, and prosperity.

ASSOCIATION of INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS of WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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