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**MEDIA RELEASE – Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia (AISWA)
Urges Election Candidates to Prioritise the Education of Every Child**

Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia (AISWA) today called on Federal Election candidates to focus on policies that benefit all students regardless of the educational sector they belong to.

AISWA Executive Director, Chris Massey, emphasised that all students deserve equitable support and funding.

“There has long been bipartisan support for parental educational choice in this country be it government, Independent, or Catholic,” Mr Massey said.

“Despite this longstanding consensus, and the fact that Independent schools are the fastest-growing sector, the Independent sector continues to face uninformed criticism from ideological detractors,” he added.

“Independent schools help reduce pressure on the public education system while at the same time ensuring every child has access to the support that aligns with their needs.”

“We don’t presume to tell parents how to vote,” Mr Massey said. “But we stand firmly in support of parents right to choose a school that best meets their children’s needs.”

AISWA, in partnership with Independent Schools Australia, is leading the charge on the *School Choice Counts* campaign in WA, advocating for school choice on behalf of our sector at the national level.

AISWA represents over 160 diverse Independent schools across Western Australia, employing in excess of 14,000 dedicated staff and educating more than 90,000 students from all walks of life. Many of these schools are no-fee or low-fee institutions including remote Aboriginal schools, Curriculum and Reengagement in Education (CARE) schools and faith-based schools ensuring accessibility for families from varied socioeconomic backgrounds.

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ABOUT AISWA

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'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.