VALUES
> We believe passionately in Independent schooling and the right of parents to exercise choice
> We accept only the highest ethical and professional standards
> We respect and are strengthened by diversity
> We promote a spirit of openness and mutual trust
> We embrace a cultural of support, encouragement and networking.

VISION
> We will be a forceful and inspirational voice of education in South Australia
> We will be the most powerful advocate for Independent schooling in the community
> We will provide dynamic and innovative services
> We will be vigorous, optimistic and unified
> We will work together to achieve great things for students in schools
> We will use our differences to gain strength and understanding.

‘Independent Schools...
Providing choice, diversity, quality and equity for young people and parents’
About the AISSA

In 1974 the Independent Schools Board (ISB) was formed to represent, promote and protect the diverse interests of non-government (non Catholic) Independent schools in South Australia. In 2001 the ISB changed its name to the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia (AISSA). The AISSA represents the interests of 95 Independent schools, and an additional seven campuses, with a total enrolment in excess of 37,500 (February 2005).

The AISSA is a focal point for expert advice across a wide range of administrative, legislative, industrial and educational matters and other areas which impact on the organisation and independence of member schools. It provides a range of services for the benefit of member schools.

The AISSA’s structure provides opportunities for various groups within the Independent school sector to discuss and formulate policies and strategies which enhance the distinctive characteristics of Independent schooling. Member school interests are represented at a decision making level by the AISSA Board and Reference Committees including:

> School Resources
> School Governance
> Human Resource Management
> Primary Heads
> Secondary/Combined Heads
> School Groups Representatives
> Pre-School
> International Students.

These Committees are comprised of representatives from principals/heads, school governors, school systems/groups, and business managers. AISSA is a member of the Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA).

AISSA SERVICES

OVERVIEW

The AISSA’s fundamental role is to protect and promote the interests of member schools and to represent the views on key issues that impact on the Independent School Sector.

The AISSA provides a wide range of services to its member schools. The AISSA is not a central office with directing authority. It has a unique collegial relationship to its member schools and school authorities within the sector where office staff, schools and school authorities work in partnership to achieve agreed outcomes.

The Association provides a forum in which interest groups can debate key policy issues that impact on schools and identify key strategies to present the position of the Independent school sector.

The AISSA acknowledges the importance of consulting with other school authorities within the sector in planning and implementing the services it provides to member schools. It also acknowledges the diversity of beliefs that guide the governance, management and educational programs of member schools.
Key Services

Most services provided by the AISSA are funded through annual subscriptions from member schools. In addition, the Association receives administration fees for the day to day management of externally funded projects.

Sponsorship funds are also directed to enhance services to member schools.

AISSA provides the following services:

- Advocacy
- Representation
- Advice and information
- Preparation of policy and procedures
- Research and analysis, including data collection and collation
- Professional development
- Report and submission preparation
- Complaints handling from the wider community.

These services apply to a number of areas that are central to the governance and management of member schools including:

- Curriculum (pre-school to post compulsory)
- Funding (recurrent and capital)
- Human resources, (including industrial relations relating to Awards and enterprise bargaining) and member school staffing matters
- Legislation and regulations
- Legal matters (e.g. duty of care, family law, environment, child protection)
- School governance (functions of boards, board/principal relationships, accountability, board appraisal)
- Information and communication technology (e.g. information technology systems, online learning)
- School leadership development program
- Management of externally funded projects
- Promotion of the Independent school sector in South Australia and overseas
- Administration support (e.g. secretarial support, bush fire alert, Trans Adelaide ID Cards, teacher CV information).
- Compliance and risk management

Representation

Representation is a key AISSA service. The AISSA represents the interests of Independent schools on key state advisory committees, boards and regulatory agencies such as the Advisory Committee on Non-Government Schools, Ministerial Advisory Committee on Students with Disabilities, Inter Sectoral Child Protection Executive Committee, Non-Government School Registration Board, Teachers Registration Board of South Australia and the Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia (SSABSA).

The Association acts as an Organisation of Employers for the purpose of industrial laws for both Commonwealth and State legislatures and services the AISSA Human Resources Management Committee.

The AISSA manages the day to day work of the South Australian Independent Schools Targeted Programs Authority Inc and the South Australian Independent Schools Block Grant Authority Inc. The Association also manages a number of other national and state funded programs and projects on behalf of all Independent schools.

The Association is a member of the Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA) which provides an avenue for input into key national policy issues and Commonwealth government initiatives. The Executive Director also represents the interests of the Independent school sector on the MCEETYA Student and Learning Support Services Taskforce and other national working parties.
Partnerships

AISSA services are enhanced through partnerships. The work of AISSA is dependent on a strong spirit of collegiality between the Association, member schools and school authorities in the sector.

The Association is also committed to establishing and maintaining partnerships with the Department of Education and Children’s Services, Catholic Education SA and other education and training agencies in the best interests of independent schools, all young people in South Australia and the well being of the wider community.

The AISSA provides a focal point for communication with key government agencies and private companies. It provides support to the International Students’ Committee and facilitates participation of member schools in overseas education exhibitions. The AISSA provides a contact point for Education Adelaide and the Australian Education International (AEI) by distributing information, meeting overseas visitors and attending consultations. AISSA consults with Austrade and prepares Export Market Development Grant claims for consortium members. The Association also investigates the opportunities for joint marketing ventures and coordinates cooperative international marketing ventures.

The AISSA is continually seeking partnerships to enhance its services.

New Services

The Association’s Strategic Plan challenges the AISSA Board to ‘…pursue opportunities and innovative planning that enhances the range and quality of products and services to members…’. AISSA seeks funding from other sources such as governments and sponsorship to provide additional services to member schools, such as a leadership development program and an ICT advisory service.

Further information on the services provided by the AISSA is available from the AISSA website at www.ais.sa.edu.au.