

A I S S A



ASSOCIATION of  
INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOLS of SA

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14 October 2011

**The Editor**

*The Advertiser*

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**Letter for Publication**

Sir

Former High Court Justice Michael Kirby rightly advocates the importance and value of international students in our schools and our society ('Fight racism with foreign students', *The Advertiser*, 13/10/11).

In his reported remarks, Justice Kirby quite wrongly concludes that too few schools are committed to international students and that non-government schools are only involved for profit.

South Australian schools in all sectors – government and non-government – have for years promoted and experienced the benefits of international students in their schools. Despite Justice Kirby's claim to the contrary, South Australia as at December 2010 had more international students in government schools (1326 students) than in non-government schools (1162).

All overseas students at all schools – including government schools – pay fees to cover the cost of their schooling and accommodation. All schools, including non-government schools, are non-profit.

Independent schools appreciate international students in terms of both their needs and what they contribute to the vitality and culture of a school. Having overseas students study in Australia cements cultural understanding and generates ties with overseas communities.

It is essential for education in Australia to function purposefully in a global context and international students help us to fulfil this critical objective.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Garry Le Duff'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent 'G' and 'L'.

**GARRY LE DUFF**

Executive Director

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