

*December, 2011*

## Intervention Order (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009

Text The *Intervention Order (Prevention of Abuse) Act, 2009* came into force on 9 December 2011. The Act aims to improve existing laws in relation to domestic and non-domestic violence and places an increased focus on the protection of young people.

The Legislation creates a new category of 'intervention orders' that replace the current personal restraining orders, with which schools will be familiar.

### IMPLICATIONS FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

The ACT will likely require changes to current school procedures.

A significant change to the current practice is that young people and the name of their school of attendance may now be listed on an intervention order and that identified schools will be notified and provided with a copy of the order.

In cases where the school attended by a listed young person is not identified, all schools (government and non-government) will be requested to promptly check enrolment records to ascertain whether the student attends the school so

that the order can be provided to the school in question and the student recorded as "found". This process will likely be streamlined with checks on central data bases of the SA Government and Catholic school systems completed first.

A further important change resulting from the new Act is that schools may have an obligation to inform SAPOL if the intervention order is being breached. Additional advice regarding the operation of intervention orders will be forwarded to schools in the near future.

The AISSA has agreed that it will, on behalf of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DECD, formally DECS) notify member schools when their students are listed on intervention orders and facilitate the identification of students whose school of attendance is not identified on the intervention order.

The AISSA will request the following information from schools to assist in this process:

- the names and details of a first and second contact person and an out of school hours contact person to be notified when students attending your school are listed on an intervention order.

- the name of a school contact who can facilitate the prompt checking of your school's enrolment data base in cases where a student's school is not identified on the order.