INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS’ NATIONAL LITERACY & NUMERACY RESULTS

Overall average scores for the Independent school sector in South Australia for all areas tested in the first national comparison of literacy and numeracy skills exceed national average scores at each year level.

The Executive Director of the Association of Independent Schools of SA, Garry Le Duff, said the tests were proving highly valuable in identifying students and schools that need assistance as well as identifying strategies to help high-performing students and schools to further excel.

“Our school principals say that the tests are very significant for two reasons,” Mr Le Duff said.

"The data enables them to identify students who need help to improve their performances. At the same time, the tests also enable schools to assist those students who do well to do even better.

"We are also able to use the data to plan professional development programs for teachers and direct Commonwealth funds to these activities. These latest results will help us target and refine programs to give special support as required for particular students and for the professional development of teachers in Independent schools.

"Last year, for example, we established successful programs to improve overall numeracy as well as the writing skills of boys. There will be more initiatives next year."

About 12,000 Independent school students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sat the 2008 national literacy and numeracy assessments.

After they receive their individual results next week, each Independent school will publish its school’s overall results to make them publicly available.

Contact: Garry Le Duff, Tel: 8179 1402(W), 8339 2106(A/H) or 0419 806 419