RESPONSIBLE RISES IN SCHOOL FEES

An Association of Independent Schools survey of member schools indicates that fees for 2008 will rise by an average of 5.2 percent or $193 consistent with the educational component of the consumer price index.

School fee increases ensure continuous improvement in education consistent with parental expectations for benefits such as retaining and attracting the best available teaching talent.

The Executive Director of the Association of Independent Schools of SA, Garry Le Duff, said cost drivers included increases in teacher salaries, the employment of more specialist staff and counsellors, escalating government compliance costs, information technology and expanding curriculum choices, including vocational education.

“All Independent schools are not-for-profit and fees are increased to offset costs to the benefit of students,” Mr Le Duff said.

“Rises in teacher salaries reflect the desire of schools to retain and attract the best possible teaching talent.”

Mr Le Duff said individual schools would adjust their fees according to their specific circumstances, costs that may be unique to that school and the needs of students.

Overall, South Australian fee rises are well below those of the eastern states.

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