

AHISA MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AHISA welcomes incoming CEO Dr Chris Duncan

National Chair of the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia (AHISA), The Rev. Chris Ivey, today confirmed that Dr Chris Duncan will commence as CEO of AHISA on 3 January 2023.

“Chris comes to us with over 20 years’ experience in independent school leadership,” said Rev. Ivey, who is Principal of St Andrew’s Anglican College in Queensland. “Before accepting the principalship of Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School in northern NSW in 2005, which he led until 2014, Chris was Head of Junior School at Pulteney Grammar School in Adelaide and an architect of Pulteney’s transition to co-education.

“In 2015 Chris was appointed Head of Governance at the Association of Independent Schools of NSW, and over the last seven years has helped Heads and Chairs of school councils work through an intensely challenging period for independent schools, including changes to the federal schools funding model and the disruption of the COVID pandemic.

“Chris is well-placed to assist AHISA’s Board in further developing our strategic focus on leadership development and our support for the wellbeing of Heads,” said Rev. Ivey.

“Chris is also a great leader of learning,” said Rev. Ivey. “He has an honours degree in English from the University of Sydney and a Master of Education Policy (International) from the University of Melbourne. In 2021 he completed a PhD at the University of Sydney, developing the concept of value-embedded learning by applying dynamic systems theory and adopting electroencephalogram research methodologies. Chris’s research interests centre on how the interweaving of philosophy and science contribute to better educational practice.”

Rev. Ivey said that over recent months Dr Duncan had spent time with AHISA’s current CEO, Beth Blackwood AM, and with AHISA’s Board to ensure a smooth transition of the leadership of AHISA’s National Office.

“On behalf of AHISA’s Board and all AHISA members, I extend our deep thanks and gratitude to Beth Blackwood for her extraordinary contribution to AHISA over the last seven years as CEO, and during her time as an AHISA member,” said Rev. Ivey.

‘Beth has had an outstanding career in education, including her 18-year tenure as Principal of Presbyterian Ladies’ College in Perth, from 1997 to 2015. During her Headship at PLC she also served at various times as AHISA WA Branch Chair and as a member of AHISA’s Board.’

Rev. Ivey said that Ms Blackwood has also contributed to Australian education more broadly through her membership since 2018 of the Board of the Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL).

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“As well as supporting our members through excellent programs and services, Beth has personally assisted many aspiring and current Heads on their leadership journey,” said Rev. Ivey. ‘The depth of leadership in the independent sector in coming years will carry her stamp, and it is with heartfelt gratitude and affection that we wish her well in her retirement.’”



Dr Chris Duncan



Ms Beth Blackwood AM

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Contact: Ms Beth Blackwood, AHISA CEO, mobile 0417 180 842.

AHISA is a professional association of 450 Heads of independent schools. Its members lead schools that collectively account for over 11 per cent of total Australian school enrolments and 70 per cent of independent sector enrolments.