

AHISA MEDIA RELEASE

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1 June 2022

AHISA welcomes new federal ministers and assistant ministers whose roles directly influence the future of young Australians

The Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia (AHISA) has welcomed the appointment of the Hon Jason Clare as the incoming federal Minister for Education.

‘Minister Clare’s biography highlights that his belief in Australia’s education system as “the most powerful cause for good in this country” was a key driver of his entry into politics,’ said AHISA’s CEO, Ms Beth Blackwood. ‘Educators are also motivated by the difference they can make in the lives of their students, and we look forward to working with the new Minister.’

Ms Blackwood said issues of interest to schools were covered by several ministerial portfolios and assistant ministerial appointments.

‘We welcome Dr Anne Aly to the dual roles of Minister for Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth,’ said Ms Blackwood. ‘These are two pivotal roles in influencing the life trajectories of children and young people in Australia. Given the increased incidence of mental health issues of young people since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we hope the appointment of Emma McBride as Assistant Minister for Mental Health will support Dr Aly in addressing these issues.’

Ms Blackwood said schools will also be looking to the Hon Brendan O’Connor in his role as Minister for Skills and Training to acknowledge the role schools play in VET delivery and in creating multiple pathways for students into further education and training.

‘We are also hopeful that the appointment of Senator Anthony Chisholm to the dual roles of Assistant Minister for Education and Assistant Minister for Regional Development will assist the Regional Education Commissioner to improve the educational opportunities for regional and remote students,’ said Ms Blackwood.

‘We also welcome the Hon Linda Burney as Minister for Indigenous Australians and Senator Malarndirri McCarthy as Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians,’ said Ms Blackwood. ‘Both roles will be of particular importance this year as the Productivity Commission undertakes its review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.’

‘The new appointments lend significant ministerial weight to a raft of issues in education,’ said Ms Blackwood. ‘AHISA looks forward to contributing to policy development across all portfolios.’

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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, 70 per cent of independent sector enrolments and 20 per cent of total Australian Year 12 enrolments.