

GOVERNMENT CAPITAL GRANTS A POSITIVE STEP, BUT MORE SUPPORT NEEDED FOR INDIGENOUS BOARDING SCHOOLS

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Government of capital grants funding for three Indigenous boarding schools in the Northern Territory, describing it as a significant step towards improving school infrastructure.

However, ISA emphasised the need for further long-term support to address the broader needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from remote communities.

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College, and Yipirinya School all Independent schools kno4.004 (o)125oersginal and Torres StraAadi51 To

great start, we need sustained funding solutions to ensure these students continue to have

ISA continues to call for a permanent, recurrent funding model that will secure the future of Indigenous boarding schools, ensuring they can provide not only education but also the pastoral, cultural, and mental health services essential for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

About Independent Schools and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students:

ISA is the national peak body representing 1,216 Independent schools, with close to 720,000 enrolled students. In 2023 there were 19,299 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled in 987 Independent schools. Independent schools in remote regions are often the sole providers of education for these communities, with fifty-one schools in the Independent sector having an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enrolment comprising more than 50 per cent of the total enrolment. The Independent school sector is also the largest provider of boarding in Australia, operating almost 75 per cent of all Australian boarding schools. In 2023 there were 139 boarding schools in the Independent school sector, enrolling 15,204 boarding students. More than fifteen per cent of boarders in Independent boarding schools are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. The Independent schools sector also includes nine majority Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boarding schools.

For more information www.isa.edu.au

**The 2023 Budget papers had \$21.6 million in 2023–24 for a one-year extension of NIAA's Indigenous Boarding Providers Grant program to support approximately 2,300 students. There was no money in this year's budget to continue the program.*

See ISA's report [Supporting Their Futures: A Sustainable Model for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Boarding](#)

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