

A full-page photograph showing the silhouettes of a family—a woman, a young girl, and a man—standing on a grassy hill at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon to the right, creating a strong backlight effect and long shadows. The woman is in the foreground on the left, with her long hair blowing in the wind. The young girl stands in the center, and the man is on the right. The background shows rolling hills and a power line tower under a warm, golden sky.

**Representing the families of
123,000 students enrolled in more
than 210 independent schools**

Who we are

The Queensland Independent Schools Parents Network is the recognised representative body – and a strong voice – for the needs and interests of parents who choose an independent education for their children.

We are regularly consulted by governments and other peak education groups on policy matters that affect families.

We are also passionate advocates for positive and respectful learning partnerships between schools, parents and children (what is known as parent engagement).

Our website is a rich well of research, quality resources and funding opportunities to help teachers and schools power up their parent engagement.

Parent engagement
is schools and families
working together
in partnership.

When it happens
well, the winners are
our children.

Meaningful parent engagement

What is parent engagement?

It is now accepted that a parent's attitudes to education and the expectations they hold for their children, can have a profound impact on how well their children do at school.

Study after study over 40 years has shown that parents who are supportively engaged in their child's education can have a positive influence on both their academic outcomes and their wellbeing.

Research shows that when schools and families work together, the effect on children can be overwhelmingly positive. Students generally:

- do better
- stay in school longer
- are more engaged in their homework
- behave better
- have better social skills.

But 'parental engagement' in schools is different to what many people assume it means.

Parents volunteering in the tuckshop and classroom are wonderful ways to support a school, but parent engagement is about something much richer and deeper.

It's about parents taking an active interest in their child's learning and getting involved in that learning process at home. That is able to happen when parents and schools have strong and productive relationships and communicate well.

Purposeful

How we help schools drive their parent engagement

Guiding schools and keeping families informed

① Our website contains up-to-date information and resources for educators and parents who want to harness the power of parent engagement.

We regularly update our community of parents, schools and supporters on education, student wellbeing and parent engagement news through our Facebook page, monthly newsletter and website.

② We fund school-based research projects into parent engagement and host professional development seminars for teachers in this important area of research.

③ In partnership with Independent Schools Queensland we are also developing an overarching Parent and Community Engagement Strategy to provide more strategic support to independent schools in this important area.

Our purposeful advocacy work

The Queensland Independent Schools Parents Network contributes to taskforces, committees, reviews and enquiries into key areas of schooling policy.

Our Executive Officer, Justine Cirocco:

- engages directly with the Queensland Minister for Education and statewide education authorities on issues of importance to independent school parents.
- is a member of the Joint Parent Council which represents parents in all schooling sectors
- attends regular stakeholder meetings with the heads of the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority and Queensland College of Teachers.

Student learning and wellbeing lift when schools and parents pool their collective wisdom, respect each other's strengths and perspectives, and work in partnership.



advocacy

The Queensland Independent Schools Parents Network is governed by a Board of Directors and is supported by Independent Schools Queensland, the state's peak organisation for independent schools. Our Executive Officer is also supported by a Consultative Committee comprised of parents from small and large independent schools across Queensland.

www.parentsnetwork.qld.edu.au



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