

MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 18 August 2020

AUSTRALIA'S FORGOTTEN SCHOOL STUDENTS



With over 21,000 students in Australia's Boarding Schools, the constant irritation felt by parents, boarders and boarding staff in recent weeks has been caused by State Premiers and Health Officers restricting boarders access to their schools and homes.

At present those who live in New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, Queensland and the Northern Territory and go to school outside their State are not able to travel home for holidays, or to see their parents, or even if they are sick, if they wish to return to school without having to travel through a capital city airport and quarantining for two weeks.

During the last border closure in Queensland the Chief Health Officer and Premier were able to offer special arrangements for those boarders, and their families, to be able to return to school, but for this border closure there has been no consideration given to our boarding students.

The table below shows the number of students affected, with the vertical axis being the State where students attend schools, and the horizontal axis being their State of residence.

State	QLD	NS W	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	NT	ACT	No inter state	TOTALS	BOARDERS IN STATE	% BOARDING OUTSIDE OF STATE
ACT	3	101	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	108	178	60.7%
NSW	67	0	72	4	3	12	35	17	0	210	5917	3.5%
NT	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	6	345	1.7%
QLD	0	491	6	4	11	16	191	14	0	733	6344	11.6%
SA	3	19	22	3	0	2	59	0	0	108	1317	8.2%
TAS	1	3	3	0	1	0	1	2	0	11	278	4.0%
VIC	22	202	4	6	31	42	107	5	0	419	2917	14.4%
WA	2	0	0	1	1	0	15	0	0	19	3632	0.5%
TOTALS	98	816	109	18	50	77	408	38	0	1614	20928	7.7%

In 2020, 69% of the 21,000 boarders in Australia are students from the country, with an additional 18% of boarders identifying as indigenous and 10% of boarders coming from overseas. These are not the elite, they are the everyday students needing boarding schools to be able to get an education.

We look forward to some consideration of these students' needs as a matter of urgency to allow all our boarders to go home on holidays or to visit their family and then return to school for the start of term.

Richard Stokes
Chief Executive Officer

For further information or comment, please contact Richard Stokes at the Australian Boarding Schools Association using the contact below.