

MEDIA RELEASE

23 September 2020

Space to accommodate – Bathurst boarding school offers help for borders across borders

Leading co-educational day and boarding school, Scots All Saints College in Bathurst, NSW today announced it can help rural and remote boarding families who may be rethinking their education choices due to the recent difficulties experienced trying to get their children home for the holidays under COVID-19 quarantine restrictions for boarding students attending schools interstate.

As many rural and remote families reconsider their children's education choices to be within the same State, Scots All Saints College, NSW is urging affected parents to contact them for assistance with newly created capacity to house additional Year 5 to Year 12 boarders over two large campuses in Bathurst.

Director of Boarding, Mr Anthony Le Couteur said the uncertainty around the impacts of COVID-19 has prompted many families to look for new educational options within the same State that will allow them to see their children more freely during these unexpected times.

“While there has been some short term progress, we understand that Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA), parents and schools continue to work with Federal and State governments to find a longer term, more consistent and suitable approach to interstate student boarding issues to ensure continuity of education for rural and remote families. With no real certainty, this has created unnecessary anxiety and frustrations amongst the families impacted.

“It is important for these communities to know there are other educational boarding options within reach and they have not been forgotten. Scots All Saints College has been more fortunate than most to be able to ‘spread out’ and expand our boarding facilities over the past few months for girls and boys on both the Scots Campus and All Saints Campus, in Bathurst. While our boarding school is growing, we still have capacity to take on new boarders. We would like to extend an invitation to any families living in NSW who are considering boarding and may now want to keep their children closer to home in regional NSW to contact us on 6333 4726.

“We are open to exploring options with parents for students to join our College as temporary or full-time boarders as early as Term 4 2020 so parents can have peace of mind of knowing they can freely reach out and see their children when they choose to in a safe, secure country town.

“Bathurst is centrally located in NSW within a 10 hour drive from the furthest outback border communities such as, Broken Hill or Moree. Scots All Saints welcomes many boarders from rural and remote communities from across NSW and beyond. It is important for students to feel they have a home away from home for education in a safe and secure environment but can also see their families for visits and in school holidays,” Mr Le Couteur said.

If you know any families who need support, please encourage them to get in touch with Scots All Saints College as no parent should be kept from their children even in times of a pandemic.

Scots All Saints College will be visiting Broken Hill and Moree early in Term 4 to talk with families who may be considering an education for their child closer to home within NSW. Registrations essential via events@scotsallsaints.nsw.edu.au

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For media interviews, please contact: Mel Monico, Director of Community Engagement & Marketing on 0420 870 387.