



PRESS RELEASE:

Selection and merit

12th March 2013

In 2013 4,158 children in NSW will be offered a place in a selective school following the NSW Selective Schools Placement Tests an increase of 21 places from 2012. However 13,512 children will sit the entry test on Thursday March 14th having applied to get into selective schools - an increase of 147 over last year. Most of the children sitting the test will have had private tuition. Whilst the schools will be the beneficiaries few if any will acknowledge the important role of private tutors and coaching colleges in supporting children and their families to prepare for the tests.

Preparation for entry into academically selective schools is similar to entry in any other selective school, sporting, dramatic or musical: it requires that students demonstrate merit in the chosen field and application in order to succeed. All of the following notable Australians went to **selective** schools.

Michael Clarke, Jaryd Hayne, Israel Folau and Usman Khawaja (Westfield Sports)
Lindsay Farris (Newtown Performing Arts)
Justice Michael Kirby and Sir Douglas Mawson (Fort Street High School)

ATA CEO, Mr Mohan Dhall said, "Just as academically selective schools benefit from the excellent work done by tutors to prepare students for exams – including the test to get into such schools – so too do other schools benefit from coaches and mentors. An element of the success of selective schools comes from the work of private tutors and coaching specialists", he said. "It is time for these schools to acknowledge the important input private tutors, mentors and coaching make to students."

There are many benefits of preparation with tutors and mentors for entry into the range of selective schools including that the specialist support of coaches can not only help students do their best academically, creatively and in sports, but also can help students find their niche.

In this way, students who practice and perform and thus gain entry into academically selective schools should not be distinguished from those who practice and perform and gain entry into sports high schools and performing arts high schools.

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