



## PRESS RELEASE:

### National Tuition Survey of Parents: "The earlier your child gets tutoring the better" say surveyed parents

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17<sup>th</sup> January 2012

#### **ATA National Tuition Survey Final Results**

The ATA conducted the first national tuition survey canvassing parents for their views and experiences of tuition. Nearly 1,000 responses have been received nationally. The survey officially closed on 30<sup>th</sup> Dec 2011. Parents can still contribute to the survey however the final results for the survey period showed, amongst other things, that:

- Parents with 1 child (54%) or 2 children (56%) tend to take up tuition in Primary School but as family sizes increase the 3<sup>rd</sup> child (62%) and 4<sup>th</sup> child (43%) start tuition ***earlier*** (in Pre-School). Parents report that they 'learn from the earlier children not to leave things too late. Intervention must be early to make the biggest difference to my child'.
- 62% of children obtain tutoring from 12-years of age or younger with a spike at age 10 (Year 5). There is a secondary spike at age 17-years (Year 11).
- 31% used tutors for 2 years or longer with their child. Thus it was seen as both a short term and long term intervention/support.
- 92% of parents say that tuition boosts the self-esteem or confidence of their child and caters for their individual needs.

This aspect of the Tuition Survey results is very significant and reveals the value and importance of academic tuition to families and children, and also to mainstream schooling. Mohan Dhall, ATA CEO said, "Parents value education and realise the importance of early intervention and support. The common misperception that tutoring is singularly used as a tool to coach students for high stakes exams is completely disproved by this data".

He said, "Term 1 of any year is characterised by the highest demand for tutors. Parents are advised to make a decision about tuition early rather than to leave it too late. They should always seek a tutor that is a member of the Australian Tutoring Association (ATA)".

"It is well known that early intervention is likely to lead to the best outcomes educationally", Mr Dhall said. "The evidence is clear from the sustained growth in the industry. Parents like to supplement their child's education in order to better meet the academic aspirations of their children and to boost schooling resilience and performance".

The ATA is the peak body for tutors nationally and supports accountable, ethical and honest tutoring.

The survey canvassed parent opinion and sought data on a wide range of factors relevant to tuition and over time other information shall be released.

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