

# Independent Schools at a Glance 2020



**Schools: 1,148**

Independent schools in Australia.



**Fees: \$5,439**

The median fee of an Australian Independent school.



**Government Support:**

Average Australian Government recurrent funding per school student:

- Independent school: \$9,890
- Catholic school: \$11,720
- Government school: \$18,390.



**Students with Disability: 120,534\*\***

The enrolment share of students with a disability in Independent schools is greater than the overall enrolment share of Independent schools.



**Indigenous Students: 14,340**

The number of Indigenous students enrolled in 897 Independent schools.

- 40 Independent schools have Indigenous enrolments over 50%
- Independent schools are Australia's largest provider of boarding schools for Indigenous students.



**Students: 631,762\***

Attending Independent schools in Australia.



**Savings to Govt: \$4.8 billion**

The additional recurrent funding cost to governments if every Independent school student moved to the government system.



**Contribution to the Economy:**

Australian Independent schools employ **96,862** staff, annually contributing:

- Salaries and wages of \$7.4 billion
- PAYG tax of \$1.6 billion
- Superannuation contributions of \$736 million.



**Capital Funding: 89%**

The average percentage of capital funding for Independent schools that comes from parents and communities.



**Diversity:**

*Christian denominations*

Jewish      Montessori      Islamic

**Indigenous**      **Boarding**

Special needs schools      Steiner  
*Community schools*

Statistics are from 2019 and derived from ABS, DET, and Productivity Commission data. Funding figures use the latest available data which is for financial year 2017-18 or calendar year 2018.

\* The total student figure of 631,762 includes independent Catholic schools.

\*\* The methodology used to calculate students with disability changed in 2018 and has resulted in significant changes in numbers.