

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLING IN AUSTRALIA

SNAPSHOT 2018



**The Independent School Sector
How Independent Schools are Funded**

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN AUSTRALIA

Characteristics of the sector include:

- a significant and growing share of Australian students
- schools that have strong community links
- a diversity of schools in terms of type, size and focus; students with special needs; and overseas students
- autonomous governance arrangements
- a comprehensive range of accountabilities of schools to parents, governments and other stakeholders
- giving parents choice by providing a wide range of educational programmes and settings
- Independent schools are not-for-profit organisations.

Size of Independent sector 2017

NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS			SCHOOL TYPE	
Primary	216	20%	Boys' schools	5%
Secondary	51	5%	Girls' schools	7%
Combined	693	66%	Coeducational schools	88%
Special schools	101	9%	Boarding schools	150
Total	1,061	100%		

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data does not categorise independent Catholic schools as Independent. These schools are a significant part of the Independent sector and when included there were a total of 1,123 schools and just over 604,436 full-time equivalent students in 2017.

Profile of Independent schools

Unlike other sectors, the majority of Independent schools operate autonomously. Independent schools do not rely on central bureaucracies or bodies, and are separately accountable to their parent and school communities. Some Independent schools with common philosophies operate within approved systems. These include Anglican, Lutheran and Seventh Day Adventist Systems. There are also some other groupings of Independent schools. All Independent schools comply with state and federal education regulations and standards.

School Size 2017

- 11% of schools have less than 50 students
- 38% of schools have less than 200 students
- 43% of schools have 200 – 999 students
- 18% of schools have 1,000 – 1,999 students
- 2%, or 20 schools, have 2,000 or more students
- the average size of Independent schools is 525 students
- the average size of a government school is 379 students

Location of Independent schools 2017

65%

Major Cities

32%

Regional

3%

Remote

Affiliations of Independent schools 2017

85% of all Independent schools have a religious affiliation.

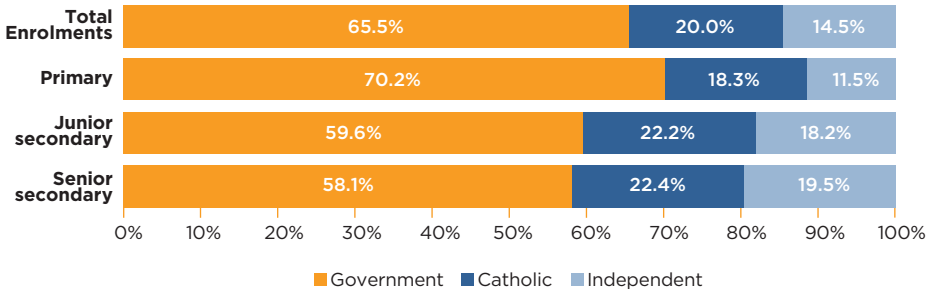
AFFILIATION	SCHOOLS	STUDENT FTE	%
Anglican	155	152,552	25.2%
Non-Denominational	207	87,266	14.4%
Christian Schools	157	69,949	11.6%
Uniting Church in Australia	43	47,217	7.8%
Catholic	54	43,744	7.2%
Lutheran	83	40,288	6.7%
Islamic	44	33,464	5.5%
Baptist	40	20,852	3.4%
Inter-Denominational	25	16,826	2.8%
Seventh Day Adventist	46	13,113	2.2%
Presbyterian	13	10,685	1.8%
Jewish	19	9,184	1.5%
Steiner School	47	8,823	1.5%
Pentecostal	15	7,298	1.2%
Assemblies of God	10	5,136	0.8%
Montessori School	38	4,797	0.8%
Greek Orthodox	8	3,763	0.6%
Other Catholic	8	3,571	0.6%
Brethren	7	3,313	0.5%
Other Orthodox	5	2,022	0.3%
Other Religious Affiliation*	13	5,921	1.0%
Other**	86	14,652	2.4%

*Other Religious Affiliations' include Churches of Christ, Ananda Marga, Hare Krishna and Society of Friends

**Other' includes special schools, international schools, Indigenous schools, and community schools.

STUDENT ENROLMENTS

School enrolments by sector and level 2017

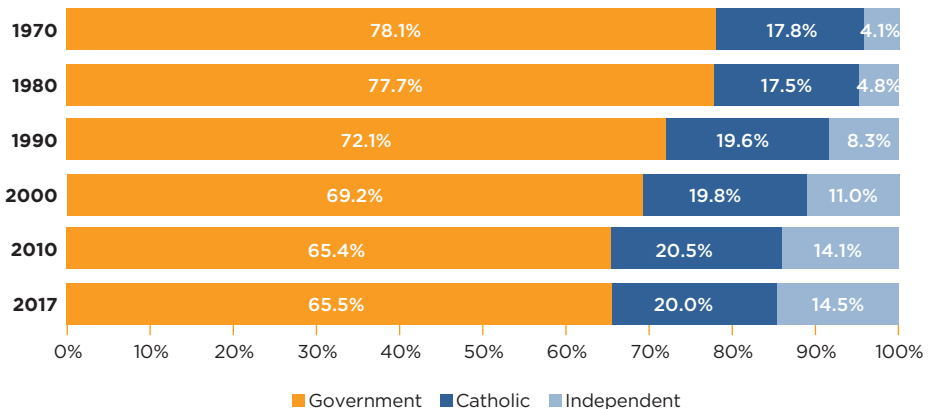


Enrolments in Independent schools, 2017

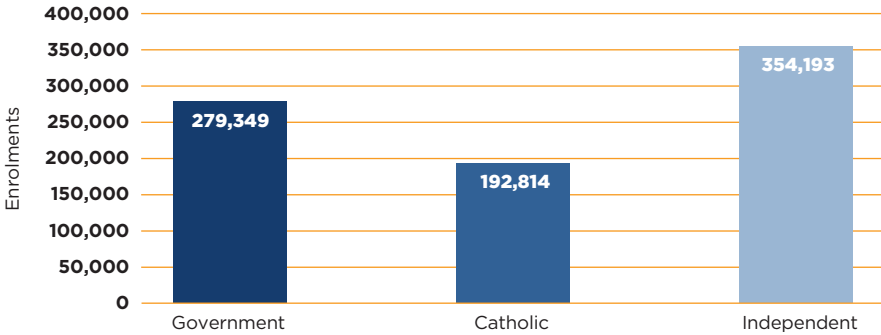
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Primary	128,229	126,627	254,856
Secondary	150,776	150,995	301,771
Total	279,005	277,622	556,627

Indigenous students in Independent schools	13,079
Students with disability in Independent schools	23,553
Overseas students in Independent schools	7,520
Boarding students in Independent schools	16,191

Enrolment change by sector, 1970–2017



Growth in enrolments, 1985–2017



INDEPENDENT SCHOOL TEACHERS

Independent schools employ nearly 17% of all teachers in Australian schools.

54,208

Total number (full-time and part-time)

47,248

FTE (full-time equivalent)

Teachers in the Independent sector by gender and level (FTE) 2017

	PRIMARY	%	SECONDARY	%
Male	4,057	22.2	12,547	43.3
Female	14,195	77.8	16,448	56.7
Total	18,252	100.0%	28,996	100.0

Student teacher ratios 1973–2017

YEAR	GOVERNMENT		NON-GOVERNMENT			
			CATHOLIC		INDEPENDENT	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
1973	25.1	16.2	29.6	22.2	17.1	14.2
1980	20.2	12.2	23.9	16.6	17.3	13.3
1990	17.9	12.0	21.1	14.0	16.9	12.2
2000	17.1	12.6	19.1	13.4	15.7	11.4
2010	15.4	12.3	17.6	12.8	14.9	10.5
2017	15.0	12.4	16.3	12.5	14.0	10.4

Sources: Figures in *Snapshot* are derived from data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian Government Department of Education and Training, and the Productivity Commission. Depending on the availability of data, enrolment figures are either full-time or full-time equivalent (FTE). Some figures include independent Catholic schools and enrolments. Some figures may not add due to rounding. Figures for the Independent school sector are for the calendar year 2017.

SOURCES OF INCOME FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Private sources of funding (mainly parents)	58%
All government sources	42%

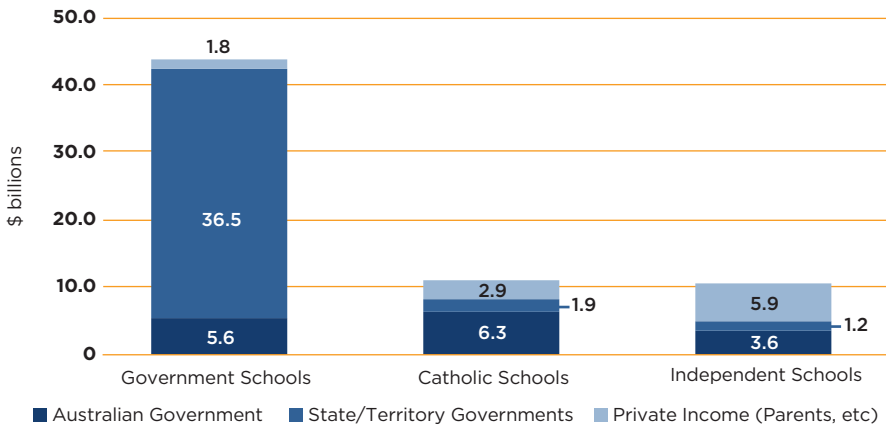
The proportions of private/government funding vary greatly from school to school.

Estimated recurrent savings to governments from the Independent school sector	\$4.6 billion p.a.
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Public funding of Independent schools

Responsibility for the public funding of schools is shared by the Australian Government and state and territory governments. State and territory governments are the main public funding source for government schools. The Australian Government is the main public funding source for non-government schools, providing 75% of total government recurrent funding for Independent schools while states and territories provide 25%.

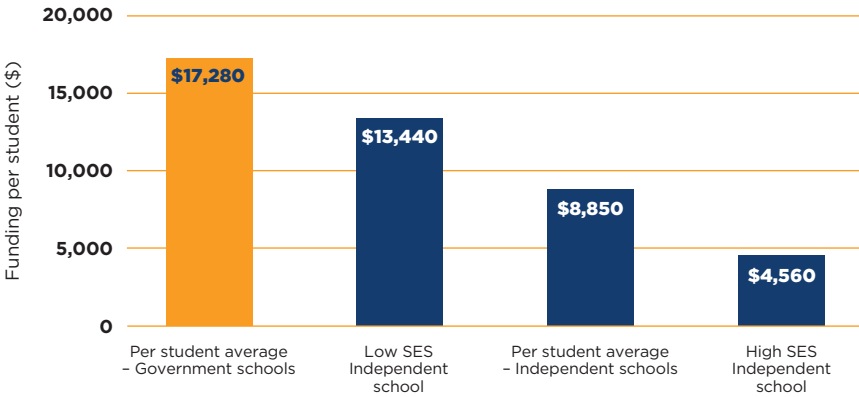
Recurrent funding for school education, 2015-16



Average government recurrent funding per student 2015-16

Government school	\$17,280
Catholic school	\$10,670
Independent school	\$8,850

Total government recurrent funding per student 2015-16 (all government sources)



The amount of funding received from all government sources varies significantly depending on the circumstances of the school.

Australian Government funding from 2018

In 2017 the Australian Government announced changes to the 'Gonski' funding model which had been in place since 2014. The new funding model aims to transition all schools to a set share of Commonwealth funding. For government schools, the Commonwealth share is 20% of their SRS entitlement and for non-government schools the Commonwealth share is 80% of their SRS entitlement. Schools and systems below their set share will transition up over six years and those above their set share will transition down over ten years. New schools go straight on to their calculated SRS funding entitlement.

The 'SRS' Funding Model

The core components of the SRS funding model remain largely unchanged, comprising base funding plus loadings to address educational disadvantage. The per-student component is based on

the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) which aims to measure the cost of effective and efficient provision of education.

The loadings in the model are for:

- School location,
- School size,
- Socio-educational disadvantage,
- Indigeneity,
- Low English language proficiency, and
- Students with disability.

Once fully implemented, loadings will be fully publicly funded.

'Capacity to Contribute'

One feature of the funding model which only affects non-government schools is 'capacity to contribute' (CTC). This means that the amount of base funding schools receive is dependent on a school community's estimated capacity to pay fees, as determined by the school's Socio-Economic Status (SES) score. Schools with a higher SES score receive less per capita base funding. The SES methodology is being reviewed in 2018 by the National School Resourcing Board.

From 2014 – 2017 the capacity to contribute settings for schools in the SES score range of 108 to 122 had a higher primary per student allocation than the secondary per student allocation. From 2018, the primary line has been adjusted so that while it is still curved, at no point will a primary student attract a higher per capita base amount than a secondary student attending a school with the same SES score.

State and territory funding contributions

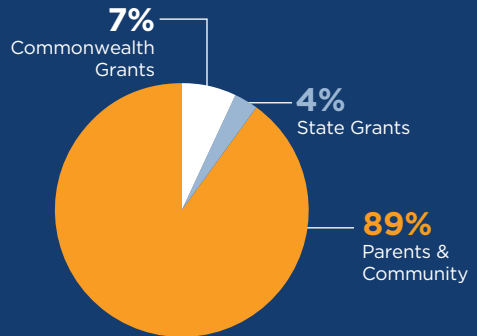
In addition to setting the Australian Government share of SRS for all schools, the legislation now also places requirements on state and territory governments in relation to school funding. State and territory governments are required to fund government schools to at least 75 – 80% of their SRS and to fund non-government schools to at least 15 – 20% of their SRS, at the sector level. The specific settings for each state and territory will be subject to bilateral agreements between the states and territories and the Australian Government.

CAPITAL FUNDING

Parents and Donors

On average, parents and donors in Independent school communities in 2016 contributed 89% of funds for capital developments, such as school buildings, grounds and equipment.

Main sources of capital funding in Independent schools 2016



Capital Grants Program

Independent committees called Block Grant Authorities in each state and territory administer capital grants for non-government schools on behalf of the Australian Government. In 2017 it is estimated that grants for the Independent sector totalled approximately \$55 million. In the Independent sector Australian Government capital grants are distributed on a needs basis, with priority given to disadvantaged school communities with the least capacity to raise funds.

State and Territory government assistance

In Queensland some capital grants for Independent schools are provided by the state government. Several state and territory governments also provide interest subsidy arrangements.

Note: Funding figures in *Snapshot* use the latest available data which is for the financial year 2015-16, or for the calendar year 2016.