

# INDEPENDENT SCHOOLING IN AUSTRALIA SNAPSHOT 2017

## THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL SECTOR

### INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN AUSTRALIA

Characteristics of the sector include:

- a significant and growing share of the number of Australian students
- schools that have strong community links
- a diversity of schools in terms of type, size and focus, educating boys and girls, students with special needs, and overseas students
- sound, autonomous governance arrangements
- a comprehensive range of accountabilities of schools to parents 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 2016

| NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS | SCHOOL TYPE           | PERCENTAGE  |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Primary                       | Boys schools          | 5%          |
| Secondary                     | Girls schools         | 7%          |
| Combined                      | Coeducational schools | 88%         |
| Special schools               | Boarding schools      | 15%         |
| <b>Total</b>                  |                       | <b>100%</b> |

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 1,104 schools and just over 594,200 full-time equivalent students in 2016.

### Profile of Independent schools

Unlike other sectors, the majority of Independent schools operate autonomously. These 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 2016

- 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 19 schools, have 2,000 or more students
- the average size of an Independent school is 525 students
- the average size of a government school is 373 students

### Location of Independent schools

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Metropolitan | 69% |
| Provincial   | 28% |
| Remote       | 3%  |

### Affiliations of Independent schools 2016

85% of all Independent schools have a religious affiliation.

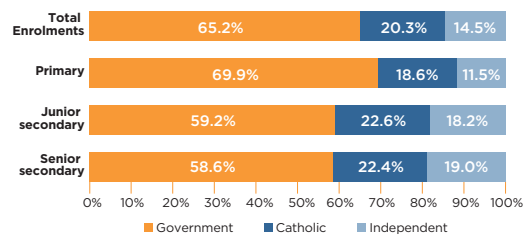
| AFFILIATION                  | SCHOOLS | STUDENT FTE | %     |
|------------------------------|---------|-------------|-------|
| Anglican                     | 156     | 151,325     | 25.5% |
| Non-Denominational           | 204     | 81,558      | 13.7% |
| Christian Schools            | 146     | 64,950      | 10.9% |
| Uniting Church in Australia  | 44      | 50,801      | 8.5%  |
| Catholic                     | 54      | 43,780      | 7.4%  |
| Lutheran                     | 84      | 40,203      | 6.8%  |
| Islamic                      | 42      | 31,878      | 5.4%  |
| Baptist                      | 40      | 20,261      | 3.4%  |
| Inter-Denominational         | 25      | 16,934      | 2.8%  |
| Seventh Day Adventist        | 45      | 12,745      | 2.1%  |
| Presbyterian                 | 13      | 10,598      | 1.8%  |
| Jewish                       | 18      | 9,121       | 1.5%  |
| Steiner Schools              | 45      | 8,403       | 1.4%  |
| Pentecostal                  | 15      | 7,218       | 1.2%  |
| Assemblies of God            | 11      | 6,200       | 1.0%  |
| Brethren                     | 9       | 4,892       | 0.8%  |
| Montessori Schools           | 36      | 4,603       | 0.8%  |
| Greek Orthodox               | 8       | 3,749       | 0.6%  |
| Other Catholic               | 8       | 3,492       | 0.6%  |
| Other Orthodox               | 5       | 1,929       | 0.3%  |
| Other Religious Affiliation* | 13      | 5,844       | 1.0%  |
| Other**                      | 83      | 13,719      | 2.3%  |

\* 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 2016

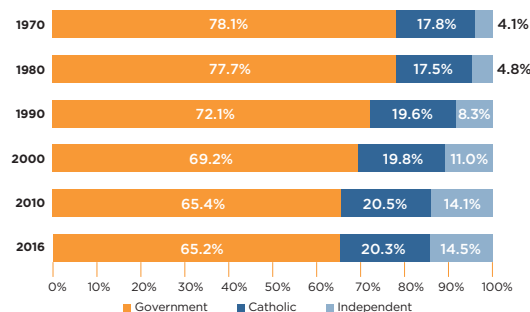


### Enrolments in Independent schools 2016

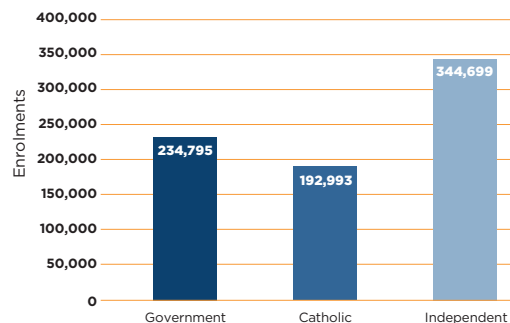
|              | MALE           | FEMALE         | TOTAL          |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Primary      | 125,854        | 124,529        | 250,383        |
| Secondary    | 148,208        | 147,822        | 296,030        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>274,062</b> | <b>272,351</b> | <b>546,413</b> |

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Indigenous students in Independent schools      | 12,618 |
| Students with disability in Independent schools | 21,530 |
| Overseas students in Independent schools        | 6,820  |
| Boarding students in Independent schools        | 16,228 |

### Enrolment change by sector 1970–2016



### Growth in enrolments 1985–2016



## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL TEACHERS

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

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Total number (full-time and part-time) | 53,470 |
| FTE (full-time equivalent)             | 46,357 |

### Teachers in the Independent sector by gender and level (FTE) 2016

|              | PRIMARY       | %             | SECONDARY     | %             |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Male         | 3,932         | 22.0%         | 12,324        | 43.3%         |
| Female       | 13,949        | 78.0%         | 16,152        | 56.7%         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>17,881</b> | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>28,476</b> | <b>100.0%</b> |

### Student teacher ratios 1973–2016

| 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      |
| 2016 | 15.0       | 12.6      | 16.6           | 12.6      | 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 2016.

# INDEPENDENT SCHOOLING IN AUSTRALIA SNAPSHOT 2017

## HOW GOVERNMENTS FUND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

### SOURCES OF INCOME FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

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

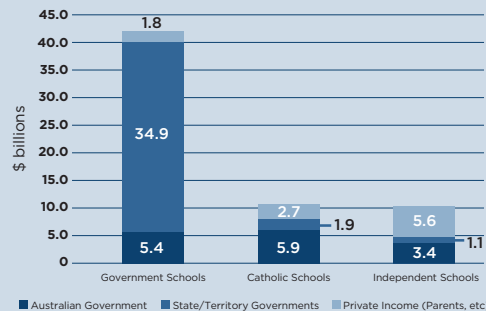
The proportions of private/government funding vary greatly from school to school.

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Estimated recurrent savings to governments from the independent school sector | \$4.4 billion p.a. |
|---|--------------------|

### Public funding of Independent schools

All state and territory governments and the Australian Government share responsibility for the public funding of schools in Australia. State and territory governments are the main public funding sources for government schools and provide 25% of total government recurrent funding for Independent schools. The Australian Government is the main public funding source for non-government schools, providing 75% of total government recurrent funding for Independent schools.

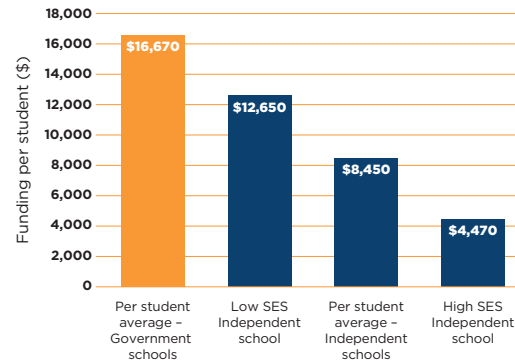
### Recurrent funding for school education 2014-15



### Average government recurrent funding per student 2014-15

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Government school  | \$16,670 |
| Catholic school    | \$10,200 |
| Independent school | \$8,450  |

### Total government recurrent funding per student 2014-15 (all government sources)



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

### Australian Government funding from 2014

During 2011 there was a major review of school funding undertaken by a panel chaired by Mr David Gonski AC which recommended that funding for all schools be based on a new schooling resource standard with loadings to address educational disadvantage.

A funding model was then developed by the Australian Government and the Australian Education Act 2013 was passed by Federal Parliament enabling Australian Government funding for schools from 2014. From 2014 complex transition arrangements to the new funding model commenced.

### The 'SRS' Funding Model

The new funding model is based on the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) which aims to measure the cost of effective and efficient provision of education. The SRS informs the per capita primary and secondary amounts for base funding.

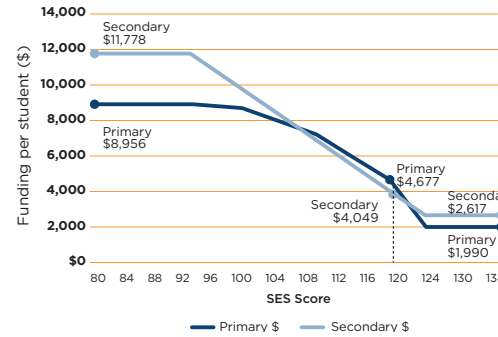
The main difference between how government and non-government schools are funded is that non-government schools are subject to 'capacity to contribute'. This means that the amount of base funding a school receives is dependent on the school community's estimated capacity to pay. Schools with a higher estimated 'capacity to contribute' receive less per capita base funding.

The loadings in the model are for:

- Location,
- Size,
- Low SES,
- Indigeneity,
- Low English language proficiency, and
- Students with Disability.

Loadings are intended to be fully publically funded.

### 'Capacity to Contribute' (based on 2016 SRS)



Unlike the previous SES funding model, under the current capacity to contribute settings schools in the SES score range of 108 to 122 have a higher primary per student allocation than the secondary per student allocation. At the widest point the difference between the two is \$628 per student.

### Transition to SRS

Most schools in existence prior to 2013 are in the process of transitioning to their SRS funding entitlement, either through higher indexation plus the receipt of additional funding each year or through receiving a lower level of indexation than the SRS. Each state and territory has a different transition path.

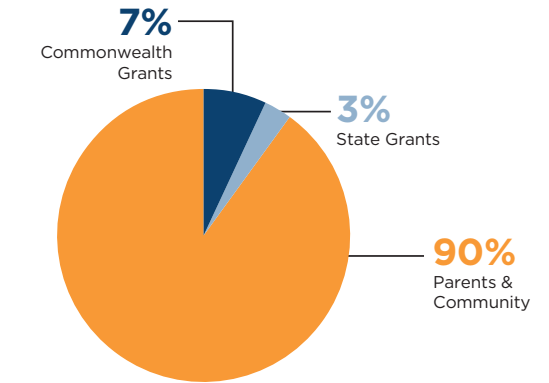
New schools go straight on to their calculated SRS funding entitlement.

## CAPITAL FUNDING

### Parents and Donors

On average, parents and donors in Independent school communities in 2015 contributed 90% of funds for capital developments, such as school buildings, grounds and equipment.

### Main sources of capital funding in Independent schools 2015



### 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 2016 it is estimated that grants for the Independent sector totalled approximately \$53 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 2014-15, or for the calendar year 2015.

For more information visit: [www.isca.edu.au](http://www.isca.edu.au)

