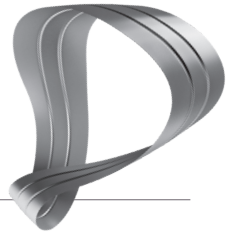


# INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS SNAPSHOT

2023 EDITION

LATEST AVAILABLE  
FACTS AND FIGURES



The Independent school sector is a diverse and growing group of non-government schools. This is a snapshot of the key characteristics of the Independent school sector, those who are enrolled, those who work in Independent schools, and how these schools are funded.

The Independent school figures in this snapshot include Independent Catholic schools, except where otherwise indicated.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL SECTOR

BROAD CHOICE FOR PARENTS

STRONG COMMUNITY LINKS

DIVERSITY OF SCHOOL TYPE,  
SIZE AND FOCUS

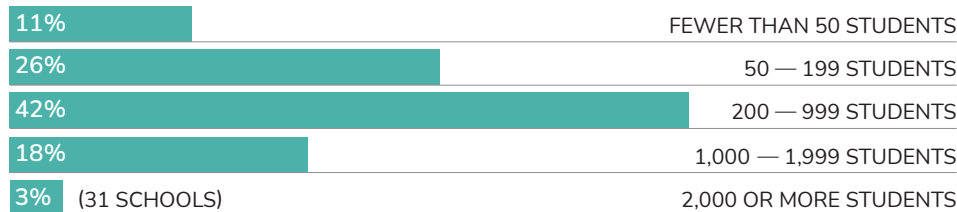
AUTONOMOUS GOVERNANCE  
ARRANGEMENTS

COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

## SCHOOL METRICS

In 2022, there were 1,209 Independent schools of which 141 were boarding schools. Most Independent schools are co-educational.

### SIZE OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



### NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

PRIMARY	226	19%
SECONDARY	74	6%
COMBINED	766	63%
SPECIAL SCHOOLS	143	12%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,209</b>	<b>100%</b>

### TYPE OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

BOYS' SCHOOLS	4%
GIRLS' SCHOOLS	6%
CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOLS	90%

1,209



INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

570



AVERAGE NUMBER  
OF STUDENTS ENROLLED AT  
AN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

388



AVERAGE NUMBER OF  
STUDENTS ENROLLED AT A  
GOVERNMENT SCHOOL

# SCHOOL PROFILE

Independent schools have diverse religious or philosophical affiliations. They represent a range of approaches to teaching and learning.



83%

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS WITH A RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

## AFFILIATIONS OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS BY NUMBER OF ENROLMENTS

AFFILIATION	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	STUDENTS FTE	STUDENTS FTE
ANGLICAN	154	168,140	24.4%
NON-DENOMINATIONAL	235	100,067	14.5%
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL	158	82,779	12.0%
UNITING CHURCH	42	51,318	7.5%
ISLAMIC	53	46,278	6.7%
CATHOLIC, ROMAN	52	43,992	6.4%
LUTHERAN	80	43,476	6.3%
BAPTIST	41	25,382	3.7%
INTER-DENOMINATIONAL	23	18,473	2.7%
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST	44	15,678	2.3%
PRESBYTERIAN	13	12,156	1.8%
STEINER SCHOOL	50	9,515	1.4%
JEWISH	19	9,186	1.3%
PENTECOSTAL	20	9,068	1.3%
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD	11	7,496	1.1%
BRETHREN	20	5,568	0.8%
MONTESSORI SCHOOL	39	4,984	0.7%
ORTHODOX, GREEK	8	3,851	0.6%
CATHOLIC, OTHER	8	3,760	0.5%
ORTHODOX, OTHER	6	2,463	0.4%
OTHER RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION*	14	6,108	0.9%
OTHER**	119	18,901	2.7%

\* 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.



SCHOOL LOCATIONS



66%

MAJOR CITIES



31%

REGIONAL



3%

REMOTE

## GOVERNANCE

Independent schools are generally not-for-profit institutions founded by groups in the community. All Independent schools are registered with the relevant state or territory education authorities.

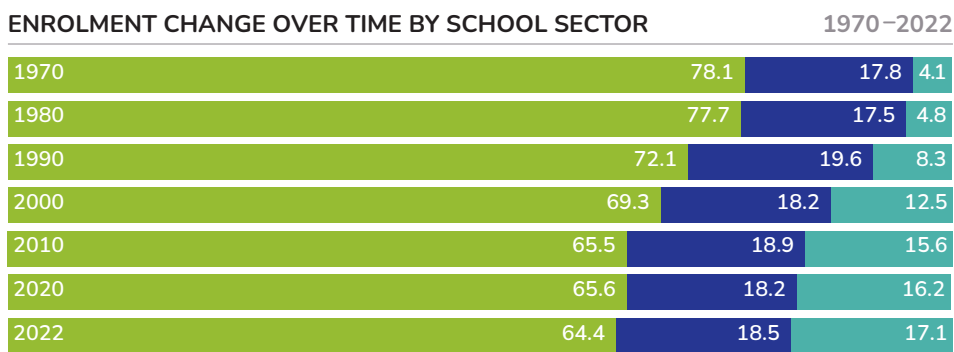
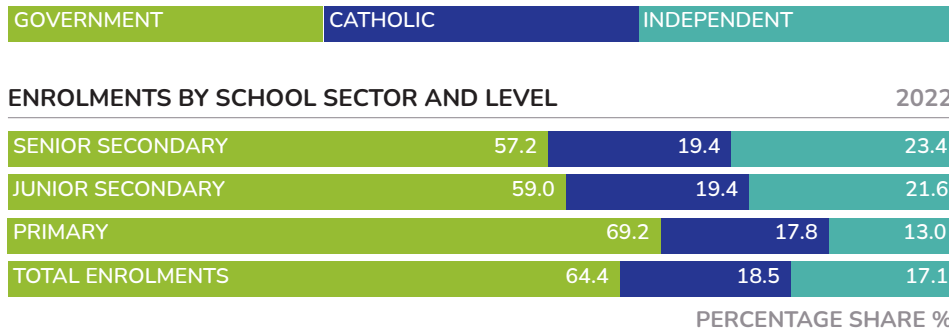
Independent schools are primarily accountable to their parent and school communities.

About 17 per cent of Independent schools operate within an approved system authority. These include the Anglican, Lutheran or Seventh Day Adventist Systems.

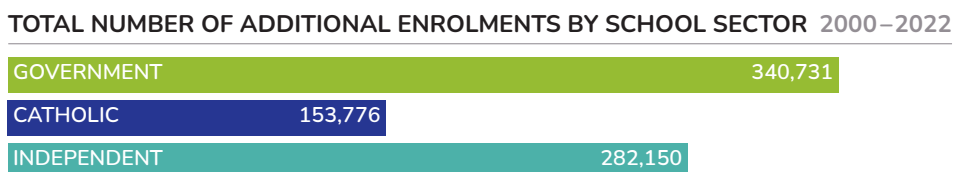
All Independent schools comply with relevant state and federal education legislation and regulation.

# STUDENT ENROLMENTS

The rate of growth of the Independent school sector has been increasing. In 2022, enrolments in Independent schools grew by 3.2 per cent.



SHOWN AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ENROLMENTS. ENROLMENT CHANGE FIGURES IN 1970, 1980 AND 1990 ARE SOURCED FROM AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS WHERE INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ARE INCLUDED IN CATHOLIC SCHOOL CATEGORY.



	<b>ENROLMENTS IN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS</b>			<b>2022</b>
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	
PRIMARY	147,103	146,051	293,154	
SECONDARY	198,261	197,224	395,485	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>345,363</b>	<b>343,275</b>	<b>688,638</b>	

	<b>ESTIMATED STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY IN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS</b>	<b>2022</b>
SUPPORT PROVIDED WITHIN A QUALITY DIFFERENTIATED TEACHING PRACTICE		57,000
SUPPLEMENTARY		60,900
SUBSTANTIAL		19,200
EXTENSIVE		6,400

NCCD ARE BASED ON ABS WHERE INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ARE INCLUDED IN CATHOLIC SCHOOL CATEGORY. MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT [WWW.NCCD.EDU.AU](http://WWW.NCCD.EDU.AU)



**3.2%**

GROWTH IN ENROLMENTS IN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



**688,638**

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



**17,752**

INDIGENOUS STUDENTS



**3,759**

OVERSEAS STUDENTS



**14,577**

BOARDING STUDENTS



**143,500**

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY (ESTIMATED)

# SOURCES OF INCOME

Most of the income of Independent schools comes from families. Governments save an estimated \$5.7 billion in funding due to the contribution from families and other private sources.



**\$5.7 BILLION**

SAVINGS TO GOVERNMENTS



**\$5,272**

MEDIAN ANNUAL FEE  
2021

## GOVERNMENT FUNDING OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Government funding for schools is provided by the Australian Government and state and territory governments. The Australian Government is the main government funding source for non-government schools, providing 79 per cent of total government recurrent funding while states and territories provide 21 per cent. State and territory governments are the main funding source for government schools. The proportions of private/government funding vary greatly from school to school.

### RECURRENT FUNDING FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION \$ BILLION

FY 2020–21

#### GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS



#### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



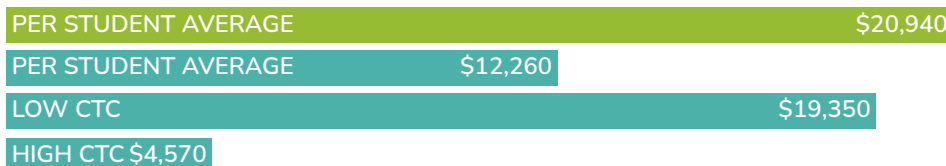
#### INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT STATE GOVERNMENT PRIVATE INCOME (PARENTS, ETC)

### TOTAL GOVERNMENT RECURRENT FUNDING PER STUDENT COMPARISON

FY 2020–21



#### GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

ALL GOVERNMENT SOURCES. THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING RECEIVED FROM ALL GOVERNMENT SOURCES VARIES SIGNIFICANTLY DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE SCHOOL.

### AVERAGE GOVERNMENT RECURRENT FUNDING PER STUDENT

FY 2020 – 21



### FUNDING MODEL

The current Australian Government funding model for schools, the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) comprises base funding plus loadings to address educational disadvantage. Base funding for Independent schools is adjusted according to the school community's estimated capacity to contribute (CTC) to the costs of education, assessed on parental income tax data. This methodology is known as the Direct Measure of Income (DMI). Schools with a higher CTC score receive less per capita base funding.

#### LOADINGS:

- SCHOOL LOCATION
- SCHOOL SIZE
- SOCIO-EDUCATIONAL DISADVANTAGE
- INDIGENEITY
- LOW ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY
- STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

## SOURCES OF INCOME

The majority of Independent school funding (recurrent and capital) comes from private sources.

52%

PRIVATE SOURCES OF FUNDING

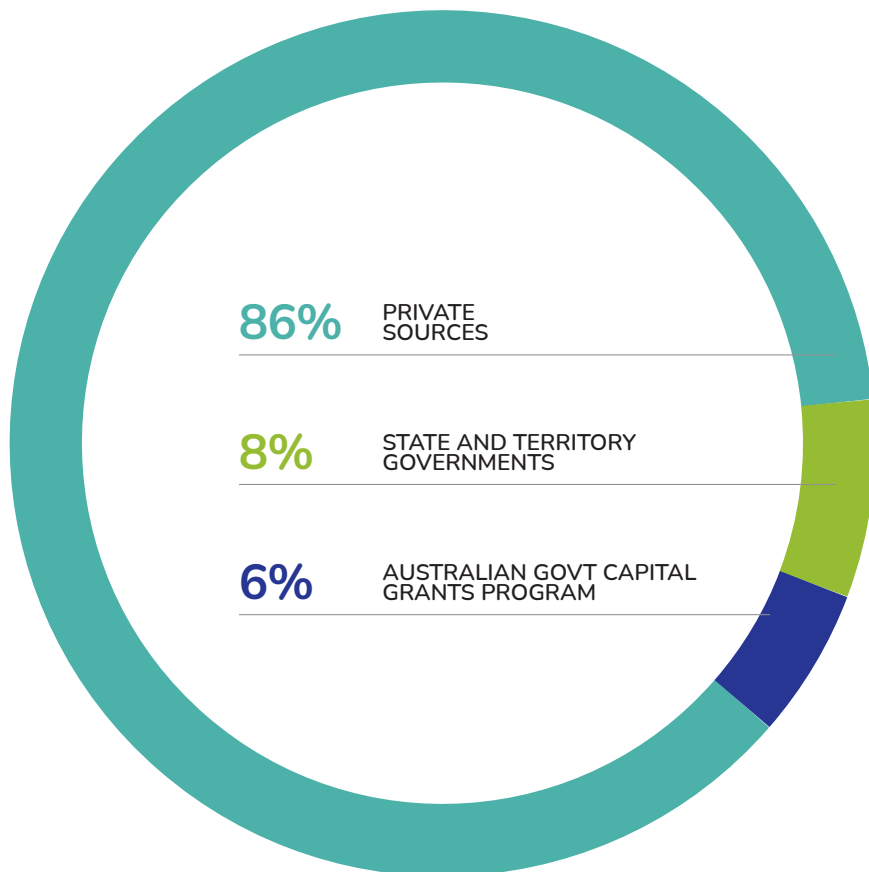
Parents and communities contributed \$8.9 billion (recurrent and capital) to Independent schools in 2021.

48%

ALL GOVERNMENT SOURCES

## MAIN SOURCES OF CAPITAL FUNDING

On average, parents and school communities provide 86 per cent of capital funding. The amount of capital funding from private sources in 2021 was \$1.14 billion.



**\$1.14 BILLION** 86%

PRIVATE SOURCES  
PARENTS AND DONORS

Most capital funding is sourced through borrowing, fund raising, levies on parents or school reserves.

**\$103 MILLION** 8%

STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENTS

State and territory government assistance for capital funding is limited. Some states and territory governments provide capital grants and several also provide interest subsidy arrangements.

**\$79 MILLION** 6%

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAM

Australian Government grants are distributed to Independent schools on a needs basis through Block Grant Authorities, with priority given to disadvantaged school communities with the least capacity to raise funds.

It is estimated that grants for the Independent sector in 2022 will total approximately \$79 million.



# SCHOOL TEACHERS

Independent schools employ more than 19.1 per cent of all teachers in Australian schools. The ratio of student to teachers in Independent schools is the lowest of the school sectors.



19.1%

TEACHERS EMPLOYED BY INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

## TEACHERS IN THE INDEPENDENT SECTOR BY GENDER AND LEVEL (FTE) 2022

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
PRIMARY TEACHERS	4,328	16,698	21,026		
PER CENT	20.6%	79.4%	100%		
SECONDARY TEACHERS	15,480	22,136	37,616		
PER CENT	41.2%	58.8%	100%		

58,642

NUMBER OF TEACHERS FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT

66,603

NUMBER OF TEACHERS HEAD COUNT

115,090

NUMBER OF TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING STAFF

## STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIOS

CHANGE 1980 – 2022

INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ARE INCLUDED WITH CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

	GOVERNMENT		NON-GOVERNMENT			
	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	PRIMARY	CATHOLIC SECONDARY	PRIMARY	INDEPENDENT SECONDARY
1980	20.2	12.2	23.9	16.6	17.3	13.3
2000	17.1	12.6	19.1	13.4	15.7	11.4
2020	14.8	12.6	15.5	12.2	13.9	10.5
2022	14.3	12.3	15.2	12.2	14.0	10.4



## STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIOS (AVERAGE)

INDEPENDENT	11.7 TO 1
CATHOLIC	13.6 TO 1
GOVERNMENT	13.4 TO 1

SOURCES: FIGURES IN SNAPSHOT ARE DERIVED FROM DATA PROVIDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS, THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION AND THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING AUTHORITY. SOME FIGURES MAY NOT ADD DUE TO ROUNDING. FUNDING FIGURES IN THE SNAPSHOT USE THE LATEST AVAILABLE FINANCIAL DATA WHICH IS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020–21, OR FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2021. UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, STUDENT ENROLMENT FIGURES ARE FULL TIME EQUIVALENT.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA

