

SNAPSHOT 2012

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

NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS		SCHOOL TYPE	
Primary	234 23%	Boys schools	6%
Secondary	68 7%	Girls schools	8%
Combined	653 64%	Coeducational schools	87%
Special schools	65 6%		
Total	1,020 100%	Boarding schools	149

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 1,086 schools and 552,800 full-time equivalent students in 2011.

Make up 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

- 12% of schools have less than 50 students
- 38% of schools have less than 200 students
- 44% of schools have 200 – 999 students
- 16% of schools have 1,000 – 1,999 students
- 1%, or 16 schools, have more than 2,000 students
- the average size of independent schools is 492 students
- the average size of a government school is 344 students

Location of independent schools

Metropolitan	70%	Provincial	27%	Remote	3%
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Affiliations of independent schools

84% of all independent schools have a religious affiliation.

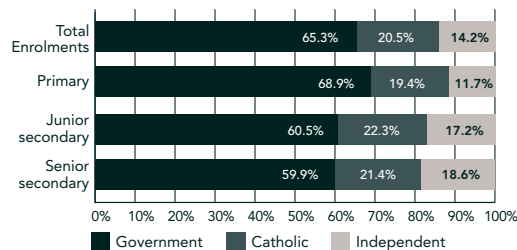
AFFILIATION	SCHOOLS	STUDENT FTE	%
Anglican	151	139,915	25.3%
Non-Denominational	187	72,325	13.1%
Christian Schools	134	55,731	10.1%
Catholic	59	47,903	8.7%
Uniting Church in Australia	44	50,344	9.1%
Lutheran	86	37,410	6.8%
Inter-Denominational	27	16,592	3.0%
Islamic	33	21,576	3.9%
Baptist	43	18,647	3.4%
Seventh Day Adventist	48	11,147	2.0%
Presbyterian	14	9,961	1.8%
Jewish	19	8,899	1.6%
Steiner School	43	7,687	1.4%
Pentecostal	17	7,465	1.4%
Assemblies of God	11	5,635	1.0%
Greek Orthodox	8	3,760	0.7%
Montessori School	39	4,098	0.7%
Brethren	8	4,514	0.8%
Other Catholic	7	3,441	0.6%
Other Orthodox	6	2,092	0.4%
Other Religious Affiliation*	12	5,238	0.9%
Other**	90	18,381	3.3%

*Other Religious includes 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 2011

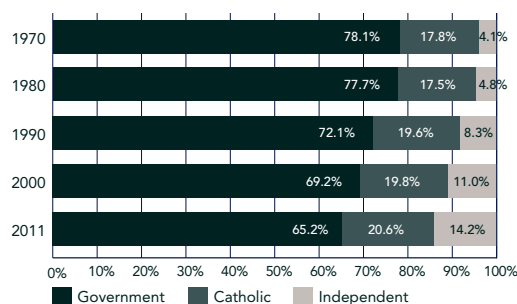


Enrolments in independent schools, 2011

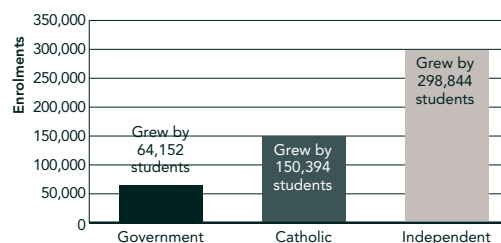
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Primary	119,225	118,241	237,466
Secondary	130,645	132,447	263,092
Total	249,870	250,688	500,558

Indigenous students in independent schools	9,518
Students with disabilities in independent schools	13,148
Overseas students in independent schools	7,331
Boarding students in independent schools	16,511

Enrolment change by sector, 1970 to 2011



Growth in enrolment share, 1985–2011



INDEPENDENT SCHOOL TEACHERS

Independent schools employ 16% of all teachers in Australian schools.

Total number (full-time and part-time)	48,301
FTE (full-time equivalent)	41,445

Teachers in the independent sector by gender and level (FTE) 2011

	PRIMARY	%	SECONDARY	%
Male	3,759	23%	11,251	44%
Female	12,337	77%	14,099	56%
Total	16,096	100%	25,350	100%

Student teacher ratios 1973 – 2011

YEAR	GOVERNMENT		NON-GOVERNMENT			
	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
2011	15.3	12.2	17.5	12.8	14.8	10.4

Sources: Figures in Snapshot are derived from data provided by the ABS, the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), and the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). 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.

SNAPSHOT 2012

HOW GOVERNMENTS FUND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

SOURCES OF INCOME FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Private sources of funding (mainly parents)	55%
All government sources	45%

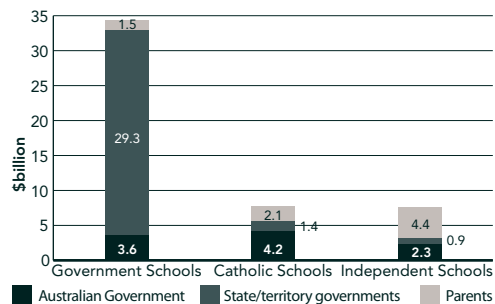
The proportions of private/government funding vary greatly from school to school.

Estimated savings to governments from the independent schools sector \$3.9 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, while the Australian Government is the main public funding source for non-government schools.

Recurrent funding for school education, 2009–10



Average government recurrent funding per student 2009–10

Government school	\$14,380
Non-government school	\$7,430
Independent school	\$6,450

State and territory government funding

Overall, state and territory governments provide 27% of total government recurrent funding for independent schools. However the levels of funding for schools and methods used to assess them varies among the states and territory.

Australian Government recurrent funding 2009–13

Legislation authorising the Australian Government to maintain the SES funding model for non-government schools over the 2009-12 quadrennium passed federal parliament in 2008 and in 2011 an amendment was passed adding an additional year. Most of the funding is in the form of general recurrent grants.

It also includes funding for capital grants and existing targeted programs, including literacy, numeracy and special learning needs, languages education, ESL new arrivals, country areas and short term emergency assistance.

During 2011 there was a major review of funding undertaken by a panel chaired by Mr David Gonski AC. The Report was released in February 2012.

Australian Government general recurrent grants

The Average Government School Recurrent Costs (AGSRC) amount is used to determine the level of Australian Government recurrent grants for non-government schools. The changes in the recurrent costs of educating a student in a government school, as measured by the AGSRC index, are the basis for annual increases in Australian Government funding for both government and non-government schools.

AGSRC amounts for 2011

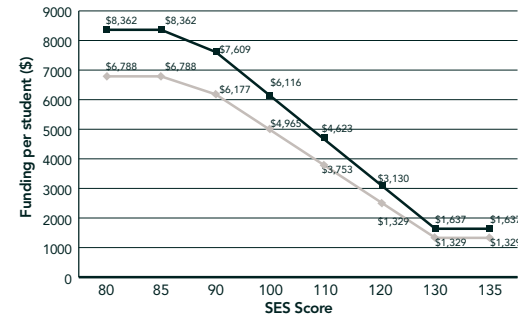
Primary	\$9,697 (6.9% increase from 2010)
Secondary	\$11,945 (4.8% increase from 2010)

Needs-based funding

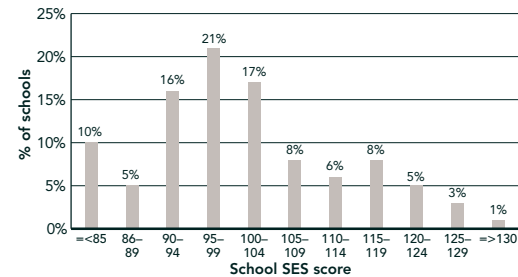
The Socio-Economic Status (SES) funding scheme for Australian Government funding measures the relative socio-economic status of independent school communities. A score is derived for each school which places it on a sliding scale of funding entitlement. SES scores range from 63 to over 130.

- schools with SES scores of 85 and below receive 70% of the AGSRC amount
- schools with SES scores of 130 and above receive 13.7% of the AGSRC amount.

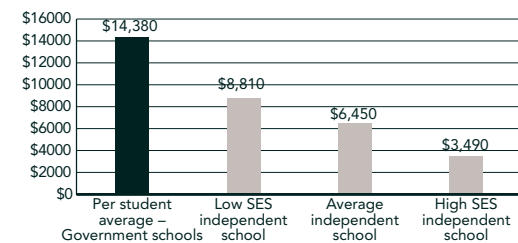
Sliding scale of funding entitlement according to SES status 2011



Distribution of schools by SES score range 2011



Total government recurrent funding per student 2009-10 (all government sources)



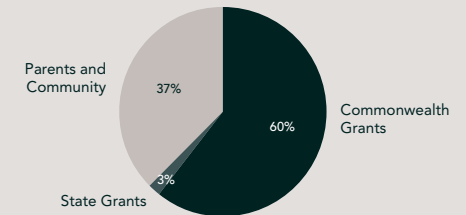
The amount of funding received from all government sources varies significantly depending on the circumstances of the school.

CAPITAL FUNDING

Parents and Donors

Normally, parents and donors in independent school communities contribute approximately 80% of funds for capital developments, such as school buildings, grounds and equipment. However, all schools in Australia are currently experiencing the one-off effect of the Building the Education Revolution (BER) which will provide \$16.2 billion over four years for school capital funding projects.

Sources of funding for capital development 2010



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 2011 it is estimated that grants for the independent sector will total approximately \$48 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. On average, 66 per cent of total capital funding available to independent schools goes to schools with an SES score less than 100, and 90 per cent of grants goes to schools with an SES score of less than 110.

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 2009-10, or for the calendar year 2010.

For more information visit: www.isca.edu.au