

SNAPSHOT 2013

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	235 23%	Boys schools	5%
Secondary	58 6%	Girls schools	7%
Combined	657 65%	Coeducational schools	88%
Special schools	67 7%		
Total	1,017 100%	Boarding schools	148

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 1,080 schools and close to 560,000 full-time equivalent students in 2012.

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

- 11% 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 15 schools, have more than 2,000 students
- the average size of independent schools is 502 students
- the average size of a government school is 348 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.

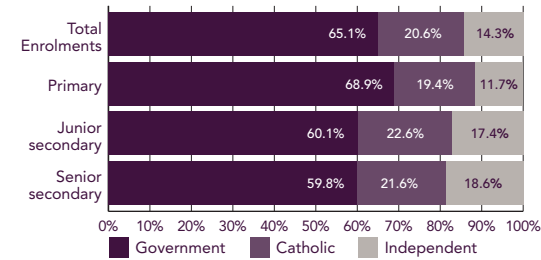
AFFILIATION	SCHOOLS	STUDENT FTE	%
Anglican	152	142,429	25.4%
Non-Denominational	185	72,294	12.9%
Christian Schools	130	55,376	9.9%
Uniting Church in Australia	44	49,911	8.9%
Catholic	56	45,447	8.1%
Lutheran	87	38,484	6.9%
Islamic	37	23,415	4.2%
Baptist	44	19,374	3.5%
Inter-Denominational	25	18,679	3.3%
Seventh Day Adventist	48	11,648	2.1%
Presbyterian	14	10,028	1.8%
Jewish	19	8,895	1.6%
Steiner School	42	8,030	1.4%
Pentecostal	17	7,713	1.4%
Assemblies of God	12	6,545	1.2%
Brethren	8	4,530	0.8%
Montessori School	38	4,371	0.8%
Greek Orthodox	8	3,780	0.7%
Other Catholic	7	3,442	0.6%
Other Orthodox	6	2,088	0.4%
Other Religious Affiliation*	12	5,275	0.9%
Other**	90	17,906	3.2%

*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

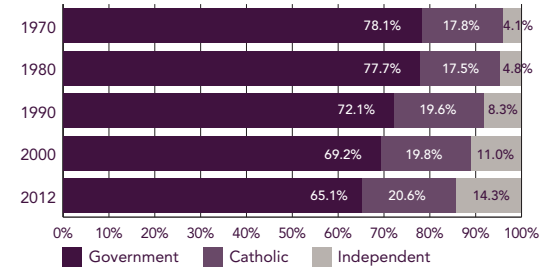
School enrolments by sector and level 2012



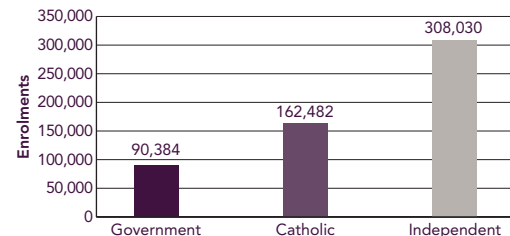
Enrolments in independent schools, 2012

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Primary	122,919	121,323	244,242
Secondary	132,281	133,957	266,237
Total	255,199	255,280	510,479
Indigenous students			10,063
Students with disabilities			14,102
Overseas students			6,133
Boarding students			16,203

Enrolment change by sector, 1970 to 2012



Growth in enrolment share, 1985 – 2012



INDEPENDENT SCHOOL TEACHERS

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

Total number (full-time and part-time)	49,268
FTE (full-time equivalent)	42,407

Teachers in the independent sector by gender and level (FTE) 2012

	PRIMARY	%	SECONDARY	%
Male	3,863	23%	11,434	44%
Female	12,812	77%	14,298	56%
Total	16,675	100%	25,732	100%

Student teacher ratios 1973 – 2012

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
2012	15.2	12.3	17.4	12.7	14.6	10.3

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 2013

HOW GOVERNMENTS FUND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

SOURCES OF INCOME FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Private sources of funding (mainly parents)	57%
All government sources	43%

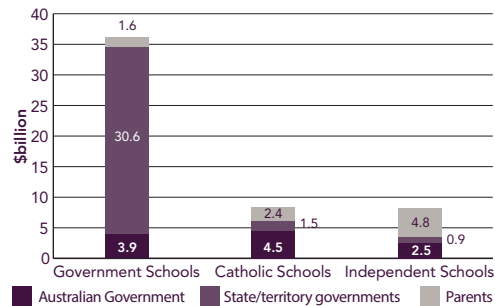
The proportions of private/government funding vary greatly from school to school.

Estimated savings to governments from the independent schools sector	\$4.1 billion p.a.
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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, 2010–11



Average government recurrent funding per student 2010–11

Government school	\$15,000
Catholic school	\$8,340
Independent school	\$6,820

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 territories.

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 targeted programs.

During 2011 there was a major review of 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. The Australian Education Bill was introduced into Federal Parliament in 2012 and if passed into law will enable Australian Government funding for schools for the period 2014–19.

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 2012

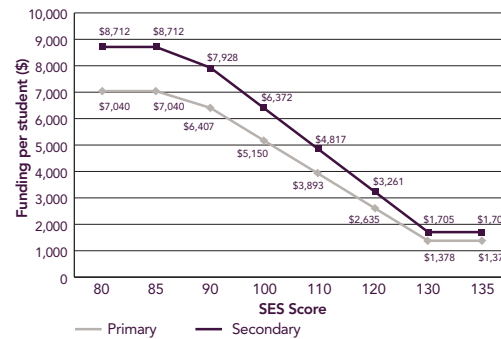
Primary	\$10,057 (3.7% increase from 2011)
Secondary	\$12,445 (4.2% increase from 2011)

Needs-based funding

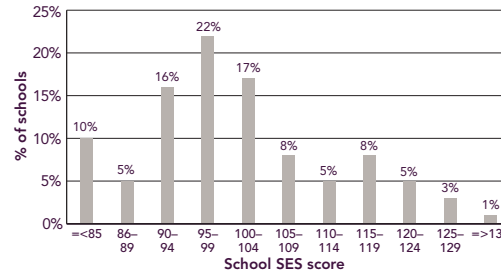
The Socio-Economic Status (SES) funding scheme for Australian Government funding measures the relative socio-economic status of independent school communities. A score is derived for each school which places it on a sliding scale of funding entitlement. SES scores range from 83 to over 130, with special schools and majority indigenous student schools not receiving an SES score.

- 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.

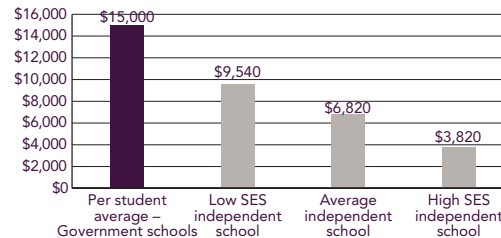
Sliding scale of funding entitlement according to SES status 2012



Distribution of schools by SES score range 2012



Total government recurrent funding per student 2010–11 (all government sources)



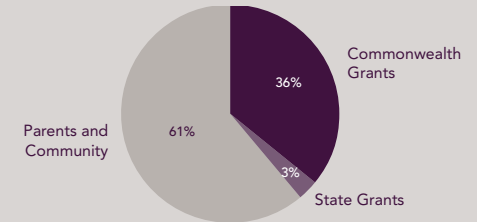
The amount of funding received from all government sources varies significantly depending on the circumstances of the school.

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, most schools in Australia experienced the one-off effect of the Building the Education Revolution (BER) which provided \$16.2 billion over four years for school capital funding projects from 2008.

Sources of funding for capital development 2011



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 2012 it is estimated that grants for the independent sector will total approximately \$49 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 2010–11, or for the calendar year 2011.

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