INDEPENDENT SCHOOLING IN AUSTRALIA: THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL SECTOR

SNAPSHOT 2016

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.

School Size
- 11% of schools have less than 50 students
- 38% of schools have less than 200 students
- 43% of schools have 200 – 999 students
- 17% of schools have 1,000 – 1,999 students
- 2%, or 18 schools, have 2,000 or more students
- the average size an Independent school is 525 students
- the average size of a government school is 367 students

Location of Independent schools
- Metropolitan 68%
- Provincial 29%
- Remote 3%

Affiliations of Independent schools
85% of all Independent schools have a religious affiliation.

STUDENT ENROLMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School by sector and level 2015</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>65.0%</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior secondary</td>
<td>59.1%</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior secondary</td>
<td>58.8%</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enrolments in Independent schools 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MALE</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>124,336</td>
<td>122,581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>146,548</td>
<td>145,912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>270,884</td>
<td>268,493</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Indigenous students in Independent schools
12,003

Students with disability in Independent schools
19,648

Overseas students in Independent schools
6,305

Boarding students in Independent schools
16,055

Size of Independent sector
- 1,028 100%

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 1,091 schools and just over 586,800 full-time equivalent students in 2015.

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.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL TEACHERS

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

Teachers in the Independent sector by gender and level (FTE) 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIMARY</th>
<th>SECONDARY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>3,913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>13,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>17,498</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student teacher ratios 1973 – 2015

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.

1973 25.1 16.2 29.6 22.7 17.1 14.2
1980 20.2 12.2 23.9 16.6 17.3 15.3
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
2015 15.3 12.7 16.9 12.8 14.1 10.5

Independent Schools Council of Australia
Recurrent funding for school education 2013-14

Independent schools. The Australian Government is the main public funding source for government schools in Australia. State and territory governments are responsible for the public funding of government schools, with the Australian Government sharing responsibility for the funding of independent schools. All state and territory governments and the Australian Government share responsibility for the public funding of government schools.

The amount of funding received from all government sources varies significantly depending on the circumstances of the 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 (SRS) 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 a complex transition arrangement to the new funding model commenced.

The ‘SRS’ Funding Model

The new funding model includes 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 main difference between how government and non-government schools are funded is that non-government schools are subject to ‘capacity to contribute’, which means that the amount of base funding they receive is dependent on their schools’ community’s estimated capacity to pay. Schools with a higher estimated capacity to pay receive less per capita funding.

The loadings in the model are for:
- Location
- Size
- Low SES
- Indigeneity
- Low English language proficiency, and
- Students with Disability.

Once fully implemented, loadings will be fully publically funded. The loadings replace Targeted Program funding which also served to address areas of educational need.

‘Capacity to Contribute’ (based on 2015 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 $606 per student.

Transition to SRS

All schools in existence prior to 2013 are in a process of transitioning to their estimated SRS funding entitlement, either through the receipt of a percentage of additional funding each year or through being held at a static level of indexation. Each state and territory has a different transition path.

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