

SNAPSHOT 2011

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	248 24%	Boys schools	6%
Secondary	72 7%	Girls schools	8%
Combined	640 63%	Coeducational schools	87%
Special schools	57 6%		
Total	1,017 100%	Boarding schools	152

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 1,087 schools and 546,300 full-time equivalent students in 2010.

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 Adventists Systems. There are also some other groupings of independent schools. All independent schools comply with state and federal education regulations and standards.

School Size

- 13% of schools have less than 50 students
- 39% 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 13 schools, have more than 2,000 students
- the average size of independent schools is about 483 students
- the average size of a government school is about 338 students

Location of independent schools

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

85% of all independent schools have a religious affiliation.

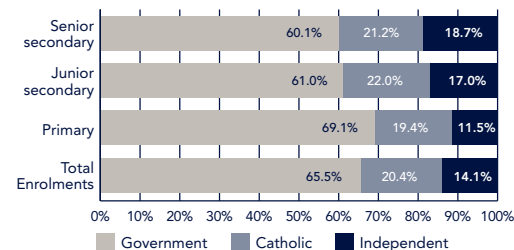
AFFILIATION	SCHOOLS	STUDENT FTE	%
Anglican	156	137,812	25.2%
Non-Denominational	188	72,100	13.2%
Christian Schools	136	53,757	9.8%
Catholic	64	50,702	9.3%
Uniting Church in Australia	43	49,289	9.0%
Lutheran	85	36,549	6.7%
Inter-Denominational	29	20,725	3.8%
Islamic	32	20,198	3.7%
Baptist	42	17,803	3.3%
Seventh Day Adventist	47	11,043	2.0%
Presbyterian	14	9,844	1.8%
Jewish	20	9,004	1.6%
Steiner School	42	7,515	1.4%
Pentecostal	16	6,838	1.3%
Assemblies of God	10	5,596	1.0%
Greek Orthodox	8	3,894	0.7%
Montessori School	39	3,955	0.7%
Brethren	8	4,025	0.7%
Other Catholic	8	3,469	0.6%
Other Orthodox	6	2,129	0.4%
Other Religious Affiliation*	11	5,033	0.9%
Other**	83	14,607	2.7%

*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 2010

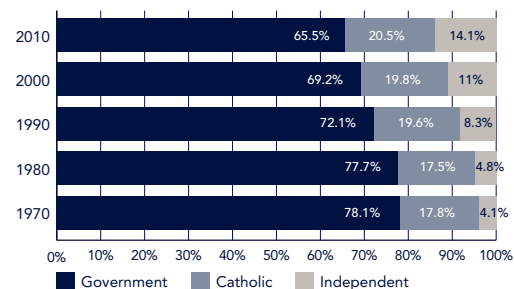


Enrolments in independent schools, 2010

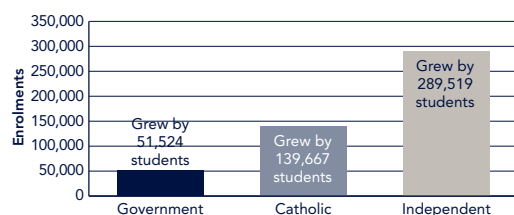
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Primary	115,868	114,664	230,532
Secondary	129,544	131,157	260,701
Total	245,412	245,821	491,233

Indigenous students in independent schools	9,315
Students with disabilities in independent schools	12,172
Overseas students in independent schools	8,378
Boarding students in independent schools	16,829

Enrolment change by sector, 1970 to 2010



Growth in enrolment share, 1985–2010



INDEPENDENT SCHOOL TEACHERS

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

Total number (full-time and part-time)	46,999
FTE (full-time equivalent)	40,333

Teachers in the independent sector by gender and level (FTE) 2010

	PRIMARY	%	SECONDARY	%
Male	3,568	23%	11,115	45%
Female	11,956	77%	13,695	55%
Total	15,523	100%	24,810	100%

Student teacher ratios 1973 – 2010

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
2010	15.4	12.3	17.6	12.8	14.9	10.5

Sources: Figures in Snapshot are derived from data provided by the ABS, the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA). 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 2011

HOW GOVERNMENTS FUND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

SOURCES OF INCOME FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

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

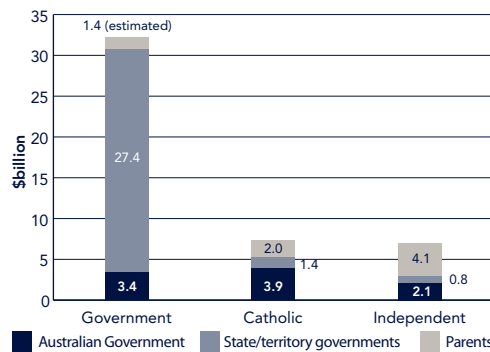
The proportions of private/government funding vary greatly from school to school.

Estimated savings to governments from the independent schools sector	\$3.6 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 principal 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, 2008–09



Average government recurrent funding per student 2008–09

Government school	\$13,544
Non-government school	\$6,850
Independent school	\$6,100

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.

Australian Government general recurrent grants

The Average Government School Recurrent Costs (AGSRC) index 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, are the basis for annual increases in Australian Government funding for both government and non-government schools.

AGSRC amounts for 2010

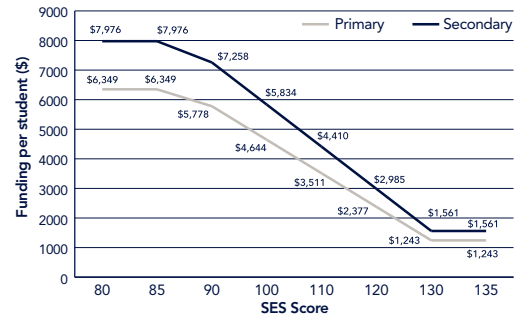
Primary	\$9,070 (8.2% increase from 2009)
Secondary	\$11,393 (7.0% increase from 2009)

Needs-based funding

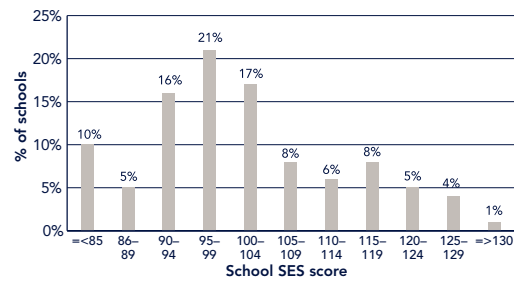
The Socio-Economic Status (SES) funding scheme for Australian Government funding measures the relative socio-economic status of independent school communities. A score is derived for each school which places it on a sliding scale of funding entitlement. SES scores range from 63 to over 130.

- 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.

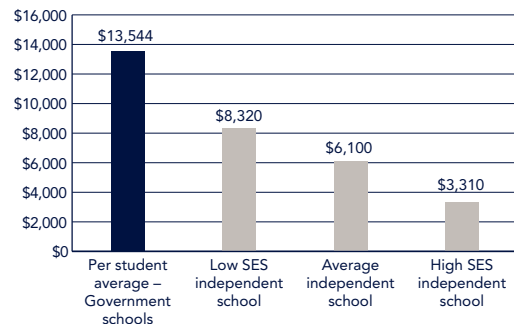
Sliding scale of funding entitlement according to SES status



Distribution of schools by SES score range 2010



Total government recurrent funding per student 2008–09 (all government sources)



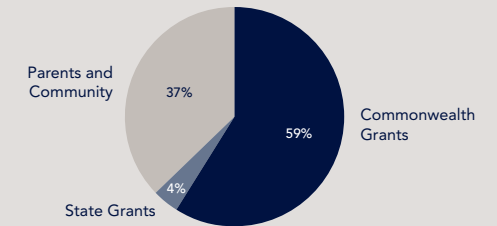
The amount of funding received from all government sources varies significantly depending on the circumstances of the school.

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 \$14.7 billion over three years for school capital funding projects.

Sources of funding for capital development 2009



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 2010 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. In 2009, 64 per cent of total capital funding available to independent schools went to schools with an SES score less than 100, and 92 per cent of grants went 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 2008–09, or for the calendar year 2009.

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