



INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Independent Update

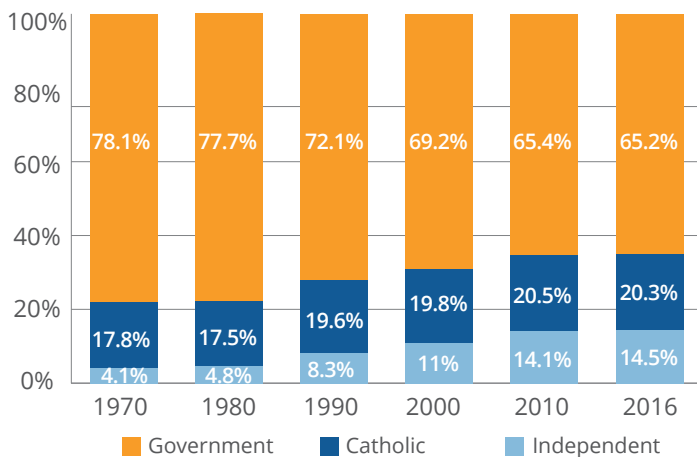
Issue 2, 2017

Independent Schooling in Australia Core Messages 2017

Independent schools contribute to Australia's quality schooling provision

Independent schools play an important role in the provision of high quality school education in Australia. Nearly 15 per cent of Australian school students attend Independent schools and enrolments continue to grow steadily.

Enrolment change by sector, 1970 to 2016



Independent schools reflect the diversity of the wider Australian community, covering a range of religious affiliations and educational philosophies or serving the needs of individuals or groups, such as students with disabilities and Indigenous students.

Size of Independent sector

Number of Schools			School Type	
Primary	214	20%	Boys schools	5%
Secondary	48	5%	Girls schools	7%
Combined	688	66%	Coeducational	88%
Special schools	92	9%	Boarding	152
Total	1,042	100%		

Parents want choice to ensure their children have the best schooling experience possible. Independent schools help meet this demand for diversity and family choice.

Independent school sector diversity

Indigenous Students	12,618
Independents schools with 50%+ of indigenous enrolment	39
Students with disabilities	21,530
Special schools	92
Overseas students	6,820
Boarding students	16,228
Boarding schools	152
Schools with less than 200 students	38%
Schools with 200 - 1,000 students	43%
Schools with 1,000 - 2,000 students	18%
Combined schools (primary & secondary)	66%

How governments can support choice and diversity in Australian schooling

Government funding arrangements should recognise and encourage the significant financial investment parents make in their children's education at Independent schools through the payment of school fees, fundraising and donations.

All school students should be eligible for a basic grant to support their school education, with additional needs-based funding which recognises the range of educational needs of students.

Students with disabilities should receive increased funding to ensure their educational needs are met no matter which school they attend.

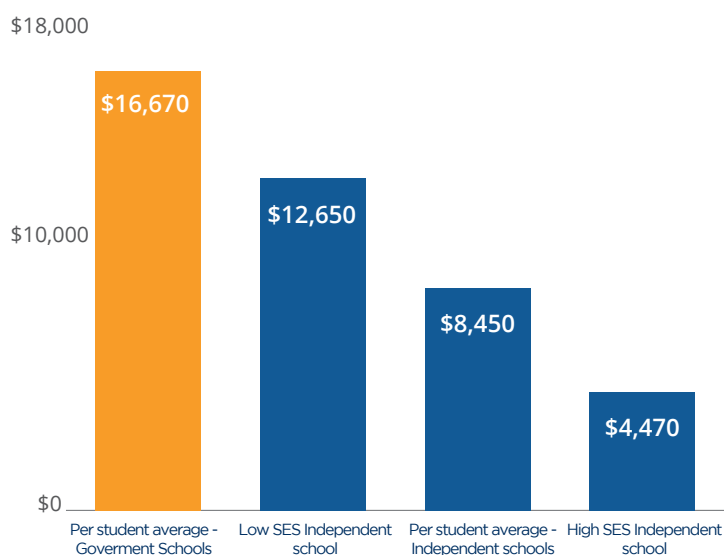
Government grants for students in Independent schools should be indexed annually to keep pace with the rising costs of schooling.

All schools should experience stability and predictability in government funding to ensure the ongoing provision of quality schooling.

No Independent school student should be worse off, and no Independent school should be disadvantaged if governments change their funding arrangements.

The Australian Government should acknowledge that grants to Independent schools and their students work most efficiently and effectively when there is an ongoing direct funding relationship guaranteed in legislation.

Total Government recurrent funding per student – Government and Independent Schools, 2014-15



In 2014-15, combining both state and Australian Government funding, public support for a student in a government school was on average \$16,670 per year – but for a student in an Independent school the amount of funding varies significantly depending on the circumstances of the school. Total government funding for student in an average Independent school was \$8,450 per year.

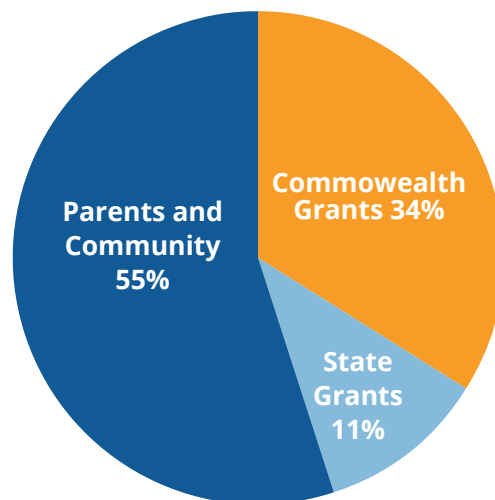
Government support for Independent schools is an equitable and efficient use of taxpayer money

Independent schools are not-for-profit organisations with a proven track record in effective and efficient management of government programs for schools.

Independent schools support transparency, accountability and proper reporting of any public monies they receive.

Independent schools contribute significantly to the cost of educating their students:

Sources of Independent sector recurrent income 2015



Government grants to Independent schools students are on average less than half the government expenditure on students in government schools; some schools receive less than 20 percent. In Independent schools families bridge the funding gap through fees and fundraising.

Independent schools support quality school education in Australia at great savings to the taxpayer: a significant proportion of Independent school income comes from families. Any government support for Independent schools, including building grants, is an effective way to stretch the value of available public dollars for schooling.

Sources of Independent sector capital funding 2015

