

# Independent Schools at a Glance 2019



**Schools: 1,140**

Independent schools in Australia.



**Fees: \$5,330**

The median fee of an Australian Independent school.



**Government Support:**

Average Australian Government recurrent funding per school student:

- Independent school: \$9,350
- Catholic school: \$11,180
- Government school: \$17,530.



**Students with Disability: 115,862\*\***

The number of students with disability (SWD) enrolled in Independent schools. SWD enrolments in Independent schools have historically increased by 10% a year.



**Indigenous Students: 13,483**

The number of Indigenous students enrolled in 887 Independent schools.

- 38 Independent schools have Indigenous enrolments over 50%
- Independent schools are Australia's largest provider of boarding schools for Indigenous students.



**Students: 617,008\***

Attending Independent schools in Australia.



**Savings to Govt: \$4.5 billion**

The additional recurrent funding cost to governments if every Independent school student moved to the government system.



**Contribution to the Economy:**

Australian Independent schools employ **91,000** staff, annually contributing:

- Salaries and wages of \$6.7 billion
- PAYG tax of \$1.5 billion
- Superannuation contributions of \$675 million.



**Capital Funding: 90%**

The average percentage of capital funding for Independent schools that comes from parents and communities.



**Diversity:**

*Christian denominations*

Jewish      Montessori      Islamic

**Indigenous**      **Boarding**

Special needs schools      Steiner  
*Community schools*

Statistics are from 2018 and derived from ABS, DET, and Productivity Commission data. Funding figures use the latest available data which is for financial year 2016-17 or calendar year 2017.

\* The total student figure of 617,008 includes independent Catholic schools.

\*\* The methodology used to calculate students with disability changed in 2018 and has resulted in significant changes in numbers.