

Schools

Number of independent schools

Primary	309	32%
Secondary	84	9%
Combined	544	56%
Special schools*	42	4%
Total	979	100%

* Special schools provide for students with disabilities – ten per cent of these are in the independent sector.

Source: ABS Schools Australia 2003. Note that in categorising independent schools for statistical purposes, ABS data do not include independent Catholic schools. These schools are a significant part of the independent sector and when included there were a total of 1,057 schools and 456,700 students in 2003.

School type

Boys schools	8%
Girls schools	9%
Coeducational schools	83%

Number of boarding schools 135

Independent school systems

Some independent schools with common philosophies are governed within approved systems. These include the Anglican, Lutheran, and Seventh Day Adventist systems. There are also some other groupings of independent schools.

School size

- 17% of schools have less than 50 students
- 44% of schools have less than 200 students
- 42% of schools have 200 – 1,000 students
- 13% of schools have 1,000 – 2,000 students
- 1%, or eight schools, have more than 2,000 students
- The average size of independent schools is about 440 students, compared to an average of 325 students in government schools.

Location of independent schools

Metropolitan	68%
Provincial	29%
Remote	3%

Affiliations of independent schools

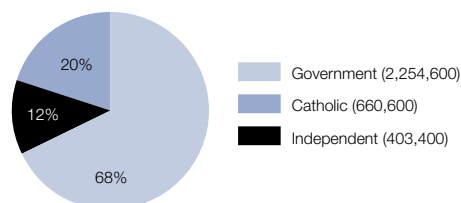
85% of independent schools have a religious affiliation.

Affiliation	Students	Schools
Anglican	118,460	146
Nondenominational	58,359	167
Roman Catholic	53,264	78
Uniting Church in Australia	45,030	41
Christian Schools	40,719	129
Lutheran	28,564	82
Interdenominational	16,074	30
Baptist	15,148	40
Islamic	11,664	26
Jewish	9,492	19
Seventh Day Adventist	8,926	57
Presbyterian	7,900	13
Steiner	6,474	46
Assemblies of God	6,096	16
Pentecostal	5,679	19
Greek Orthodox	4,223	7
Brethren	3,011	10
Montessori	3,003	32
Other Catholic	2,286	6
Other Orthodox	1,798	6
Society of Friends	1,140	1
Churches of Christ	599	2
Ananda Marga	160	2
Scientology	69	1
Hare Krishna	32	1
Other religious affiliation	2,770	7
Other*	12,962	79

* Other includes special schools, international schools, indigenous schools, and community schools.

Student enrolments

Share of all school enrolments by sector, 2003



In all capital cities except Darwin, the independent sector accounts for 16-20% of all secondary enrolments.

Enrolments in independent schools

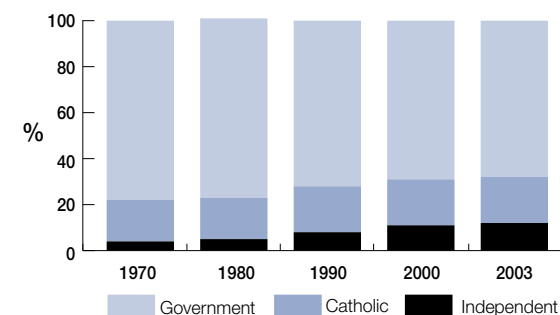
	Male	Female	Total
Primary	91,045	89,378	180,423
Secondary	111,394	111,580	222,974

Indigenous students in independent schools 5,600

Students with disabilities in independent schools 6,700

Overseas students in independent schools 9,700

Enrolment change by sector 1970 to 2003



The independent schools sector share has grown from 4 per cent in 1970 to 12 per cent in 2003.

Independent school teachers

Independent schools employ about 14% of all teachers in Australian schools.

Number (full-time and part-time) 37,300

FTE (full-time equivalent) 32,200

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

	Primary	%	Secondary	%
Male	2,887	24%	9,376	46%
Female	9,084	76%	10,816	54%
Total	11,971	100%	20,192	100%

Vocational education and training (VET)

Independent schools providing VET in schools programs in 2002 388

Independent school students enrolled in VET in schools programs in 2002 17,750

Enrolments in VET in schools programs in the independent sector increased by 250% between 1997 and 2002.

Private funding of independent schools

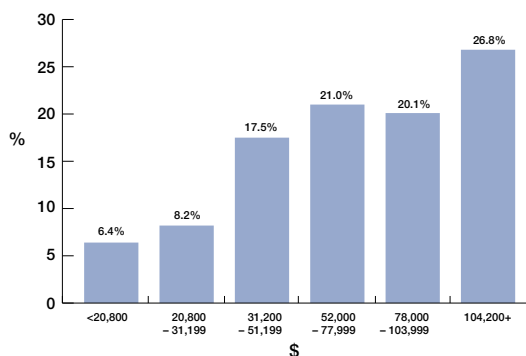
Sources of independent sector income, 2002

Private sources of funding (mainly parents)	61%
All government sources	39%

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

Estimated savings to governments from the non-government sector \$4.2 billion p.a.

Independent sector family income, 2001

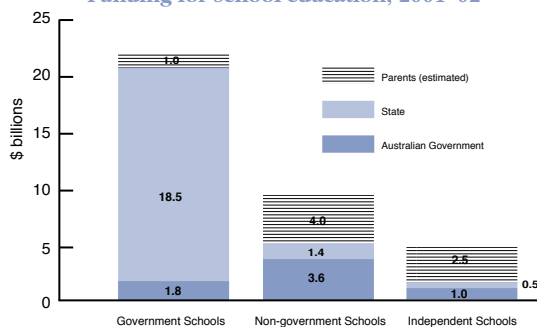


Public funding of independent schools

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 principal public funding source for non-government schools.

All funding figures use the latest available data which is for the financial year 2001-02, or the calendar year 2002.

Funding for school education, 2001-02



Average public funding per student 2001-02

Government school	\$8,937
Non-government school	\$4,870
Independent school	\$3,850

State and territory government recurrent funding

Overall, state and territory governments provide 30% of total government recurrent funding for independent schools. However the levels of funding for schools and methods used to assess them vary from state/territory to state/territory.

Australian Government recurrent funding

The Average Government School Recurrent Costs (AGSRC) index determines 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 2003

Primary	\$6,056	(7.1% increase from 2002)
Secondary	\$8,021	(7.4% increase from 2002)

Needs-based funding

The Socio-Economic Status (SES) funding scheme 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 52 to over 135.

- schools with SES scores of 85 and below receive 70% of the AGSRC amount (see maximum figures in table below)
- schools with SES scores of 130 and above receive 13.7% of the AGSRC amount (see minimum figures in table below)

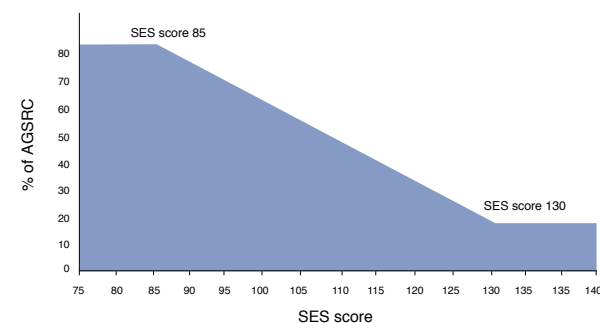
Per capita maximum and minimum SES funding – initial 2004

	Minimum	Maximum
Primary	\$830	\$4,240
Secondary	\$1,099	\$5,615

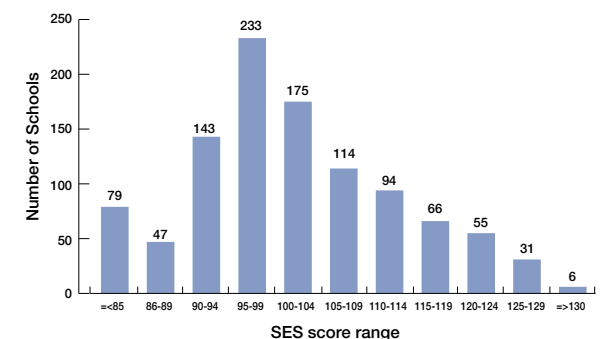
Funding maintenance

Funding maintenance applies to schools that would have had a decrease in funding when the SES model was introduced in 2001. These schools have had their previous funding level maintained.

Sliding scale of funding entitlement according to SES score



Distribution of schools by SES score range, 2003



Capital funding

Australian Government grants for capital purposes 2001-02

All schools	\$324m	
Government schools	\$232m	72%
Non-government schools	\$92m	28%
Estimated independent school share	\$28m	9%

Independent committees called Block Grant Authorities (BGAs) in each state and territory administer capital grants for non-government schools on behalf of the Australian Government.

State and territory government assistance

Capital grants are provided by the Queensland and Northern Territory Governments. Several state and territory governments provide interest subsidy arrangements.