

Independent Schooling in Australia 2007 Snapshot

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Independent Schools
Council of Australia

Schools

Number of independent schools

Primary	285	28%
Secondary	90	9%
Combined	590	59%
Special schools*	42	4%
Total	1,007	100%

* Special schools provide for students with disabilities.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data does not categorise independent Catholic schools as independent. These schools are a significant part of the independent schools sector and when included there were a total of 1,078 schools and 490,772 full-time equivalent students in 2006.

Affiliations of independent schools

85% of all independent schools have a religious affiliation.

Affiliation	Schools	Students	% of Students
Anglican	152	128,109	25.6
Nondenominational	179	64,941	13.0
Roman Catholic	71	49,997	10.0
Uniting Church in Australia	43	46,679	9.3
Christian Schools	125	43,841	8.8
Lutheran	83	32,133	6.4
Interdenominational	27	17,779	3.5
Baptist	43	16,269	3.2
Islamic	30	15,874	3.2
Seventh Day Adventist	56	10,110	2.0
Presbyterian	14	9,572	1.9
Jewish	19	9,038	1.8
Steiner	44	7,215	1.4
Pentecostal	19	6,746	1.3
Assemblies of God	16	6,370	1.3
Brethren	10	4,736	0.9
Greek Orthodox	8	4,112	0.8
Montessori	36	3,593	0.7
Other Catholic	7	3,421	0.7
Other Orthodox	6	1,970	0.4
Society of Friends (Quaker)	1	1,219	0.2
Churches of Christ	2	770	0.2
Ananda Marga	2	219	0.0
Hare Krishna	1	48	0.0
Other religious affiliation	6	2,032	0.4
Other*	85	14,231	2.8

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

Independent school systems

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

School type

Boys schools	6%
Girls schools	8%
Coeducational schools	87%
Number of boarding schools	156

School size

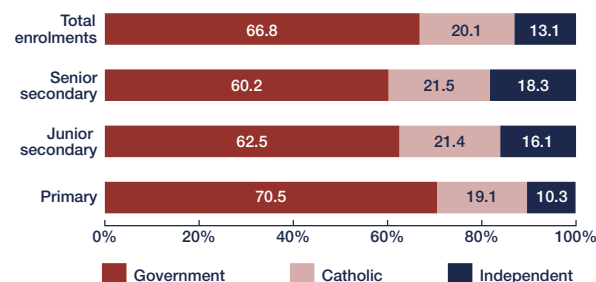
- 16% of independent schools have less than 50 students
- 43% have less than 200 students
- 42% have 200 – 1,000 students
- 13% have 1,000 – 2,000 students
- 1%, (11 schools) have more than 2,000 students
- independent schools have an average of about 455 students
- government schools have an average of about 327 students

Location of independent schools

Metropolitan	69%
Provincial	28%
Remote	3%

Student enrolments

School enrolments by sector and level 2006

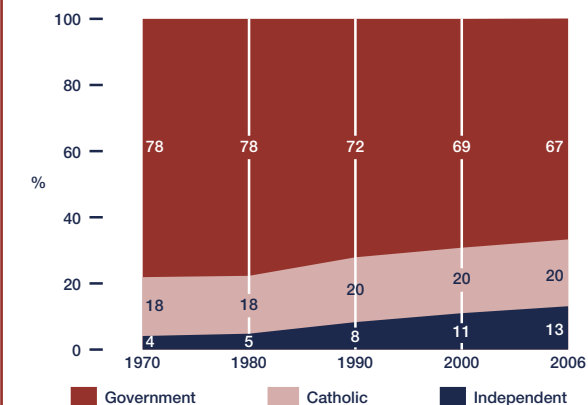


Enrolments in independent schools

	Male	Female	Total
Primary	100,717	98,948	199,665
Secondary	120,009	121,781	241,790
Total	220,726	220,729	441,455

Indigenous students in independent schools	7,971
Students with disabilities in independent schools	9,310
Overseas students in independent schools	9,616
Boarding students in independent schools	16,817

Enrolment change by sector 1970-2006



Independent school teachers

Independent schools employ about 15% of all teachers in Australian schools.

Total number (full-time and part-time)	42,712
FTE (full-time equivalent)	36,575

Teachers in independent schools by gender and level (FTE) 2006

	Primary	%	Secondary	%
Male	3,237	23	10,315	45
Female	10,597	77	12,426	55
Total	13,834	100	22,740	100

Sources: Figures in *Snapshot* are derived from data provided by the ABS, the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) and the Ministerial Council for Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA). Depending on the availability of data, enrolment figures are either full-time or full-time equivalent (FTE). Some figures include independent Catholic schools and overseas students.

Sources of income

Private sources of funding (mainly parents)	59%
All government sources	41%

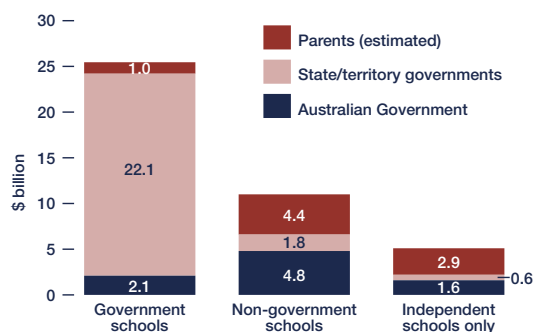
The proportions of private/government funding vary greatly from school to school.

Estimated savings to governments from the independent schools sector	\$2.4 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 principal public funding source for non-government schools (Catholic and independent schools).

Recurrent funding for school education 2004-05



Average government recurrent funding per student 2004-05

Government schools	\$10,715
Non-government schools	\$6,054
Independent schools	\$5,053

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 vary between states and territories.

Australian Government schools funding 2005-08

Legislation confirming Australian Government funding of all schools for 2005-08 was passed by federal parliament in December 2004. Most of this funding is in the form of general recurrent grants.

Australian Government recurrent funding

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 2006

Primary	\$7,216 (6.3% increase from 2005)
Secondary	\$9,319 (3.6% increase from 2005)

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 for independent schools currently range from 63 to 133. Schools with:

- SES scores of 85 and below receive 70% of the AGSRC (maximum amount)
- SES scores of 130 and above receive 13.7% of the AGSRC (minimum amount).

Per capita SES funding for 2007

	Minimum	Maximum
Primary	\$989	\$5,052
Secondary	\$1,277	\$6,524

Transition arrangements

The Australian Government has provided for the following transition funding arrangements for some schools:

- Funding Maintenance for schools that would have had a decrease in funding when the SES model was introduced in 2001. These schools have had their previous funding levels maintained.

- A Funding Guarantee to ensure schools continue to receive at least their 2004 funding levels until indexation brings their revised entitlements up to the same levels.

Capital funding

Parents and donors

On average, parents and donors in independent school communities in 2005 contributed 87% of funds for capital developments such as school buildings, grounds and equipment.

Australian Government grants for capital purposes 2004-05

All schools	\$362m	
Government schools	\$257m	71%
Non-government schools	\$105m	29%
Estimated independent school share	\$31m	9%

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

Investing in Our Schools

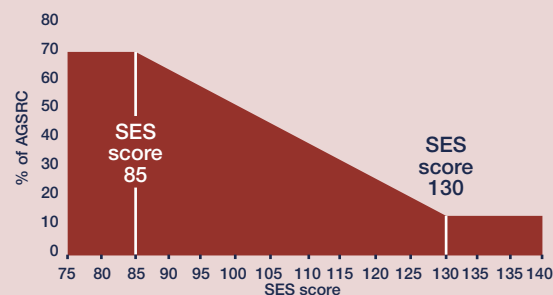
In 2005 the Australian Government introduced a \$1 billion programme for funding small capital projects in all school sectors. For the period 2005-08, the programme was to provide a total of \$300 million to non-government schools of which \$100 million was available to the independent schools sector.

In 2007 the Australian Government will provide an additional \$181 million for the programme, \$54 million of which is available to the non-government schools sector.

State and territory government assistance

Some capital grants for independent schools in Queensland are provided by the state government, and several state and territory governments provide interest subsidy arrangements.

Sliding scale of funding entitlement according to SES score



Distribution of schools by SES score range 2006

