Catholic Schools NSW

Kathleen Burrow RESEARCH INSTITUTE

MONEY INVESTED, MONEY SAVED

How non-government schools ease the public burden by over $5.0 billion a year.

Executive Summary

- The long-standing debate on school funding is too often characterised as a zero-sum game between different sectors, explained in reductive terms, and unhelpfully tinged with appeals to envy. The fundamentals of the mixed model of school choice – Catholic, Independent and government are long-standing – and remain strong. Parents value choice, all parliaments in Australia support it, and, critically, the Australian taxpayer financially benefits when the Commonwealth and State governments invest in the education of non-government school students. This report calculates the taxpayer's savings flowing from non-government school funding, both Catholic and Independent, for the year 2024 using publicly available datasets.
- The methodology adopts a two-step process that estimates the savings to the government at present and in the future once all schools have transitioned to receiving their full funding entitlement under the funding formula in the *Australian Education Act 2013* (Cth) (the AEA).
- Step one calculates the base recurrent funding that non-government schools currently receive. It then compares this to a scenario where those students enrolled in government schools and are funded to the full *School Resourcing Standard* (SRS) as determined by the AEA. The difference in government funding between these two scenarios is the equivalent to taxpayers' savings. In this step it is shown that when all schools receive their full funding entitlement under the AEA formula, savings to taxpayers will be $6.88 billion each year in recurrent funding. These savings include $2.19 billion for primary students and $4.69 billion for secondary students. Catholic schools make up $3.19 billion of these savings, and Independent schools $3.69 billion. On average, it would cost taxpayers 31% more per student to educate these children in government schools.
- Step two recognises that many government schools are not yet receiving their full funding allocation. In this step, schools are not funded to their full SRS, but instead to merely the minimum percentage of their SRS, as outlined in bilateral agreements between the Commonwealth and State/Territory governments. Under this scenario, non-government schools are shown to save taxpayers $5.09 billion each year in recurrent funding.
- Together, these steps identify an upper and lower bound of savings. The lower bound reflects estimated savings today, and the upper bound represents the savings to be realised when government and non-government schools receive their full funding entitlement under the AEA.
- These estimates do not include the savings in capital funding. Non-government schools typically cover over 90% of capital expenditure from private sources – around $5.56 billion in 2023 (noting this amount only partially captures the costs of building new schools).
- This analysis demonstrates that the financial savings to the taxpayer flowing from government support to non-government schools are immense and underpin the mixed model of school provision in Australia, a key strength of our education landscape.
- **Money invested, money saved, school choice delivered. A better Australia.**

Contents

Introduction

In early 2025, the Commonwealth and State governments finalised the *Better and Fairer Schools Agreement*[1], which substantially increased Commonwealth funding of government schools, an outcome supported by Catholic education. The Commonwealth government can afford this extra expenditure thanks in part to taxpayer savings from the substantial and growing share of students attending non-government schools. Here's how:

Australia has one of the largest non-government school sectors in the world. Thirty-seven per cent of students attend a non-government school, more than double the OECD average[2], with the share continuing to grow,[3 4] and demonstrating a clear strength of the Australian educational offering. Catholic schools make up the largest share of the non-government sector.

Over 200 years since the first Catholic school opened in Australia, there are now 1,759 Catholic schools educating 820,000 students and employing 113,000 staff.[5] Nearly 40% of Catholic schools are located outside major cities in regional, rural, and remote communities, reflecting a historical commitment to those at the margins.

The Productivity Commission's latest estimates show that government spending per student is more than $10,000 higher in government schools than in non-government schools, and that this spending has been increasing at a faster rate.[6] In their latest year of data, government recurrent expenditure per student was $10,296 – or 71% – higher in government schools than in non-government schools. This gap has widened over the last ten years, from $8k to the present $10k. Over the past five years, real government expenditure per student increased by 16% in government schools, compared to only 11% in non-government schools.

While the savings to governments from non-government schools are substantial, they are rarely quantified, and attempts to do so have generally been contested, sub-national in scope, or based on datasets that quickly date.

The National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) noted that Catholic school communities contributed $3.6 billion in fees and $1.27 billion in capital funding in 2017.[7] Independent Schools Australia (ISA) have estimated taxpayer savings from independent schools (including independent Catholic schools) as $5.5 billion in 2019.[8] In 2019, Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW) commissioned modelling from EY, which showed that NSW Catholic schools saved governments $500 million annually in recurrent funding.[9] These estimates apply to particular sectors and regions rather than the entire Australian non-government school sector.

Among attempts at the latter are two studies from the NSW Teachers Federation in 2015 and 2017 which supported conclusions that non-government schools in Australia relieved governments of around $1.9 billion to $2.2 billion in recurrent expenditure.[10 11] Similarly, a 2020 study from a team of researchers estimated the nationwide savings in recurrent funding at $1.1 billion a year.[12]

Most recently, a 2023 analysis[13] claimed:

> *...the cost in recurrent expenditure of fully funding all nongovernment schools at the same level as equivalent public schools would be less than $1 billion annually. It would also cost an additional $1 billion annually for governments to provide for a level of capital expenditure at non-government schools consistent with current capital expenditure at public schools.*

As this report shows, these figures are wild underestimates, with the actual figure being four to five times higher. These inaccuracies are due to the modelling:

1. relying on indirect proxies for non-government school funding entitlements[14], rather than the actual figures as published by the Australian Department of Education,[15] and
2. relying on sector averages rather than disaggregated school-level data.[16]

This report uses recently published, publicly available datasets to provide a transparent and timely estimate of the taxpayer savings from non-government schools.

Methodology: Step 1

The net savings to governments via recurrent funding for non-government schools can be determined using publicly available datasets. Such savings are calculated by examining the base recurrent funding received by non-government schools and comparing it to the scenario where those students are at government schools and funded to the same *Schooling Resource Standard* (SRS) methodology.

For context, the SRS is an estimate of the funding a school requires to meet the educational needs of its students. It includes a *base* amount for each student and up to six needs-based *loadings* for priority student cohorts and disadvantaged schools.

In 2024, the *SRS Base funding amount per student* was $13,570 for primary students and $17,053 for secondary students.[17]

Non-government schools are expected to cover 10% to 80% of this base SRS amount themselves, typically depending on the income levels of the parents at that school. This contribution by parents is referred to as the school's *Capacity to Contribute* (CtC). Each non-government school is given a CtC score, which determines the portion (ranging from 10% and 80%) of the base SRS that they cover through school fees or other private sources.

A school's capacity to contribute can be viewed as the amount of money the school saves governments in recurrent funding. It can be calculated using three data sources:

- *SRS Base* amount per student;
- *Capacity to Contribute %* per school; and
- *Enrolments* per school.

The precise formula for calculating each school's capacity to contribute is:

(CtC % of Primary SRS Base × SRS Base Funding per Primary Student × No. of Primary Students)

+ (CtC % of Secondary SRS Base × SRS Base Funding per Secondary Student

× No. of Secondary Students)

Adding up the capacities to contribute of all non-government schools in Australia yields the total savings to taxpayers in recurrent funding.

A technical limitation of this methodology is that many government and non-government schools are not receiving the exact amount of funding to which they are entitled under the AEA formula. Rather, they are on a transition pathway towards full funding. Step 2 of this paper's methodology accounts for this and incorporates this transition pathway, adjusting the calculations accordingly. Step 1 demonstrates the upper bound of savings, which would be realised were all schools funded according to the funding formula in the AEA.

Note that this total excludes the following:

- Non-government special schools, which teach students with disability, are entitled to 100% of the base SRS amount in government funding.
- Non-government schools where the majority of students are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and are situated in a very remote location (or where more than 80% of students are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander regardless of the school location), which are entitled to 100% of the base SRS amount in government funding.
- Loadings, as governments transfer these amounts to non-government schools in full.

Findings: Step 1

Analysis using the methodology defined in the previous section reveals that non-government schools save taxpayers $6.88 billion annually in recurrent funding. This is equivalent to avoiding a 9% increase in government recurrent funding of all schools, or a 31% increase in government recurrent funding of private schools.[18]

The savings are roughly equivalent between sectors. Catholic schools account for $3.19 billion of these savings, and Independent schools for $3.69 billion. While Catholic schools enrol more students[19], Independent schools tend to enrol students from higher-income families[20], thus attracting relatively smaller government contributions per student.

Table 1: *Government Savings in Recurrent Funding from non-government schools, by Sector and State/Territory (2024 estimate)*

State/Territory	Catholic	Independent	Total
NSW	$1,139,160,628	$1,168,749,702	$2,307,910,330
VIC	$736,647,472	$1,009,361,680	$1,746,009,151
QLD	$647,962,028	$683,411,981	$1,331,374,009
WA	$332,332,629	$421,428,239	$753,760,869
SA	$155,342,231	$227,399,167	$382,741,398
ACT	$125,427,528	$103,544,518	$228,972,046
TAS	$39,494,589	$44,524,378	$84,018,967
NT	$15,252,822	$31,002,456	$46,255,278
Total	**$3,191,619,927**	**$3,689,422,120**	**$6,881,042,048**

These savings include $2.19 billion for primary students and $4.69 billion for secondary students. While non-government schools enrol similar numbers of primary and secondary students[21], the cost of educating the latter is higher.[22]

Table 2: *Government Savings in Recurrent Funding from non-government schools, by Primary/Secondary students and State/Territory (2024 estimate)*

State/Territory	Primary students	Secondary students	Total
NSW	$762,518,325	$1,545,392,005	$2,307,910,330
VIC	$542,312,282	$1,203,696,869	$1,746,009,151
QLD	$421,994,207	$909,379,802	$1,331,374,009
WA	$221,674,032	$532,086,836	$753,760,869
SA	$126,573,079	$256,168,319	$382,741,398
ACT	$78,943,026	$150,029,020	$228,972,046
TAS	$26,557,962	$57,461,004	$84,018,967
NT	$14,916,787	$31,338,491	$46,255,278
Total	**$2,195,489,700**	**$4,685,552,347**	**$6,881,042,048**

Methodology: Step 2

The methodology used in Step 1 to calculate recurrent funding savings assumes that schools are funded to 100% of their SRS. This is the target the Commonwealth, State, and Territory governments aim to achieve, and therefore, the best way to consider long-term, structural budgetary impacts.

However, as discussed, the figure of $6.88 billion represents an upper bound of savings that will be realised once schools are fully funded according to the AEA formula. To identify estimated, realised savings, an additional step is needed that incorporates the transition pathways towards full funding. To achieve this, Step 2 assumes that schools are funded to the *minimum* percentage of their SRS, as outlined in various bilateral agreements between the Commonwealth and state or territory governments.

That is, while in the long term most State and Territory governments have begun transitioning to funding 75% of the SRS of their government schools (with the Commonwealth government agreeing to fund the other 25%)[23], in the short term, most Commonwealth, State and Territory governments are yet to reach those targets. The current minimum funding contributions are outlined below.

Table 3: *Minimum funding contributions to Public Schools from State/Territory Governments as a percentage of the School Resourcing Standard (Base)*

State/Territory	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
NSW[24]	70.7	70.8	71.1	71.4	71.8	72.2	72.7
VIC[25]	67.8	68.0	68.4	69.0	69.7	70.4	70.4
QLD[26]	69.3	69.3	69.3	69.3	69.3	69.3	70.5
WA[27]	84.4	80.6	77.6	75.5	75.0	75.0	75.0
SA[28]	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0
ACT[29]	72.9	73.2	73.4	73.6	73.9	74.1	74.3
TAS[30]	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0
NT[31]	55.2	56.0	57.0	58.0	58.5	59.0	59.0

The Commonwealth government previously agreed to fund all government schools up to 20% of the SRS by 2023[32] (noting that the new *Better and Fairer Schools Agreement* will not come into effect until 2025). While the percentage contributions in 2018 and 2022 are known,[33] the equivalent figures in the interim years 2019-2021 have not been released. As such, this analysis assumes it transitions linearly according to the AEA, as outlined in the table below.

Table 4: *Minimum funding contributions to Public Schools from the Commonwealth Government as a percentage of the School Resourcing Standard (Base)*

State/Territory	2018	2019*	2020*	2021*	2022	2023*	2024*
NSW	17.9	18.3	18.7	19.2	19.6	20.0	20.0
VIC	17.2	17.8	18.3	18.9	19.5	20.0	20.0
QLD	18.1	18.5	18.9	19.2	19.6	20.0	20.0
WA	15.3	16.2	17.2	18.1	19.1	20.0	20.0
SA	16.6	17.3	18.0	18.6	19.3	20.0	20.0
ACT	19.3	19.4	19.6	19.7	19.9	20.0	20.0
TAS	16.7	17.4	18.0	18.7	19.4	20.0	20.0
NT	23.5	23.1	22.7	22.3	21.9	21.6	21.4

*Estimate based on linear trend from 2018 to 2022 and AEA methodology.

Currently, non-government schools are also not funded at 100% of their SRS; however, they will be by 2029 based on the agreed-upon transition pathways. The percentage of funding they do receive varies by state, sector, and individual school, and is not publicly available. As such, this step of the analysis makes a simplifying assumption that they are currently funded at 100% of SRS.

Findings: Step 2

The tables below show the additional costs to governments in recurrent funding if government schools were to educate all non-government school students in 2024, but only to the minimum levels of funding agreed upon for that year (and with the simplifying assumption that non-government schools are currently funded at 100% of their SRS).

Table 5: *Government Savings in Recurrent Funding from non-government schools, by Sector and State/Territory (2024 estimate), assuming minimum government contributions to SRS and non-government schools currently funded at full SRS*

State/Territory	Catholic	Independent	Total
NSW	$835,105,096	$944,305,233	$1,779,410,328
VIC	$424,784,853	$759,173,175	$1,183,958,027
QLD	$415,220,983	$470,181,274	$885,402,257
WA	$274,747,703	$362,327,142	$637,074,845
SA	$115,448,909	$185,868,243	$301,317,153
ACT	$125,427,528	$103,544,518	$228,972,046
TAS	$25,519,106	$35,329,133	$60,848,238
NT	$2,483,924	$15,282,272	$17,766,196
Total	**$2,218,738,102**	**$2,876,010,989**	**$5,094,749,091**

Table 6: *Government Savings in Recurrent Funding from non-government schools, by Primary/Secondary students and State/Territory (2024 estimate), assuming minimum government contributions to SRS and non-government schools currently funded at full SRS*

State/Territory	Primary students	Secondary students	Total
NSW	$536,853,717	$1,242,556,611	$1,779,410,328
VIC	$304,201,092	$879,756,936	$1,183,958,027
QLD	$231,140,706	$654,261,551	$885,402,257
WA	$174,212,957	$462,861,888	$637,074,845
SA	$90,248,903	$211,068,250	$301,317,153
ACT	$78,943,026	$150,029,020	$228,972,046
TAS	$16,587,409	$44,260,830	$60,848,238
NT	$3,129,397	$14,636,800	$17,766,196
Total	**$1,435,317,206**	**$3,659,431,885**	**$5,094,749,091**

As can be seen, while this additional step results in a lower figure for taxpayer savings than the $6.88 billion previously outlined, it still represents a substantial amount, at $5.09 billion annually in recurrent funding.

This analysis demonstrates that even with conservative assumptions, the taxpayer savings from non-government schools remain immense and will continue to grow each year as government schools approach their full share of the SRS.

Conclusion

The evidence is in and conclusive: the Australian taxpayer is well in front thanks to the current funding model for non-government schools. The historical and ongoing contribution of Catholic education, in particular, relieves the Government from funding school provision for the entire student population.

This paper presents a comprehensive analysis demonstrating the public savings generated by non-government schools in Australia. As discussed above, based on the most recent publicly available datasets, non-government schools are estimated to save taxpayers at least $5.09 billion each year in recurrent funding. When all schools receive their full funding entitlement under the AEA, this figure will be $6.88 billion.

The upper bound estimates are best considered in the context of longer-term savings and structural budgetary impacts.

In addition to savings in recurrent funding, non-government schools typically cover over 90% of capital expenditure from private sources – around $5.56 billion in 2023 (noting this amount only partially captures the costs of building new schools).

This analysis demonstrates that taxpayers' savings from non-government schools are much higher than those estimates reported in the media and underpins the globally unique and advantageous model and school programme in Australia.

Finally, while this paper highlights the large benefit to Australian public finances delivered by the non-government school funding model, we know the real value of Catholic Education is found in the academic and spiritual formation of tomorrow's citizens, ready to proclaim the Gospel to the world. It's that endeavour that we commit to in the third century of Catholic education.

Appendix I: Savings in capital expenditure

No discussion of taxpayer savings from private schools can be complete without considering capital funding.

Distinct from recurrent funding, capital funding makes up a substantial share of school expenditure. While governments make some contributions, non-government schools typically cover 90% of their capital expenditure from parents and other private sources.

Public savings in capital funding are difficult to estimate. In 2019, Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW) commissioned modelling from EY, which showed NSW Catholic schools saved governments at least $7.9 billion in additional capital expenditure. However, no national or cross-sector estimates have been made.

There are publicly available estimates of the contributions made by parents and other private sources to private school capital expenditure. However, equating these figures with public savings assumes that governments would share the same priorities in capital funding as private schools, and does not consider any economies of scale. Such assumptions may potentially *overestimate* the savings.

At the same time, limitations with available data may lead to *underestimating* the savings. The best publicly available dataset is the *MySchool*[34] dataset published by the *Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority* (ACARA). However, this data only partially captures the costs of building *new schools*.[35] *MySchool* reports on *open* schools only. As such, the capital expenditure reported against a school includes any construction costs from the year the school opens but none from years prior (including the costs of land acquisition). Additionally, the most recent year of *MySchool* finance data is 2023; capital expenditure is likely to have increased substantially since then.

Nevertheless, while noting these limitations, it is evident that in 2023, parents and other private sources[36] contributed $5.09 billion in capital funding for non-government schools, excluding the full costs of building new schools. A breakdown of this expenditure by sector and region is shown below.

Table 7: *Capital Expenditure from private sources by non-government schools, by Sector and State/Territory (2023 estimate)*

State/Territory	*Catholic*	*Independent*	*Total*
NSW	$803,048,855	$996,111,475	$1,799,160,330
VIC	$736,500,563	$851,914,688	$1,588,415,251
QLD	$328,202,684	$654,975,037	$983,177,721
WA	$299,193,041	$211,294,863	$510,487,904
SA	$148,636,685	$287,250,195	$435,886,880
ACT	$51,634,256	$67,445,330	$119,079,586
TAS	$67,586,052	$22,924,006	$90,510,058
NT	$8,946,759	$27,046,961	$35,993,720
Total	**$2,443,748,895**	**$3,118,962,555**	**$5,562,711,450**

Appendix II: Savings by Diocese

The Catholic Church has 28 dioceses in Australia. Each diocese has its own schools office, which manages operations for *systemic* Catholic schools in the diocese (note *RI/MPJP* Catholic schools[37] are run independently of these offices). The following table summarises, by diocese the savings to taxpayers in *recurrent* funding from Catholic schools, using Step #1 of the methodology, where it is assumed schools are funded to 100% of SRS.

Table 8: *Government Savings in Recurrent Funding from Catholic schools, by Diocese (2024 estimate), assuming schools funded to 100% of their SRS*

Diocese	State	Primary students	Secondary students	Total
Melbourne	VIC	$218,676,391	$385,563,376	$604,239,767
Brisbane	QLD	$155,702,097	$299,869,275	$455,571,372
Sydney	NSW	$142,526,900	$158,107,657	$300,634,557
Perth	WA	$81,915,116	$159,252,573	$241,167,690
Parramatta	NSW	$56,133,427	$86,269,330	$142,402,757
Adelaide	SA	$50,609,111	$91,572,403	$142,181,515
Canberra & Goulburn	ACT/NSW	$45,123,127	$55,424,071	$100,547,198
Broken Bay	NSW	$49,583,536	$36,265,549	$85,849,085
Rockhampton	QLD	$26,864,848	$58,080,548	$84,945,396
Maitland-Newcastle	NSW	$28,208,481	$46,043,893	$74,252,374
Wollongong	NSW	$25,373,242	$39,147,651	$64,520,893
Townsville	QLD	$17,781,338	$29,345,372	$47,126,710
Sale	VIC	$17,259,745	$28,436,590	$45,696,336
Sandhurst	VIC	$16,083,285	$27,315,349	$43,398,634
Ballarat	VIC	$16,105,597	$27,207,139	$43,312,735
Lismore	NSW	$15,686,646	$25,208,855	$40,895,501
Hobart	TAS	$12,919,396	$26,118,874	$39,038,270
Bunbury	WA	$11,524,990	$22,817,231	$34,342,221
Cairns	QLD	$11,437,609	$20,469,691	$31,907,300
Bathurst	NSW	$11,824,940	$16,815,146	$28,640,087
Toowoomba	QLD	$11,007,776	$17,403,473	$28,411,250
Wagga Wagga	NSW	$8,210,571	$13,661,772	$21,872,343
Geraldton	WA	$5,428,027	$10,721,540	$16,149,567
Darwin	NT	$4,838,169	$10,414,652	$15,252,822
Armidale	NSW	$6,331,039	$5,609,045	$11,940,084
Port Pirie	SA	$4,803,925	$6,542,934	$11,346,859
Wilcannia-Forbes	NSW	$2,463,769	$-	$2,463,769
Broome	WA	$583,510	$545,696	$1,129,206
RI/MPJP schools		$42,563,353	$389,820,277	$432,383,630
	Total	**$1,097,569,961**	**$2,094,049,966**	**$3,191,619,927**

The Kathleen Burrow Research Institute

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This is a publication of the Kathleen Burrow Research Institute

The Kathleen Burrow Research Institute is a research unit within Catholic Schools NSW that conducts and publishes research on contemporary issues in school education, promoting the advancement of education across all school sectors in Australia. It aims to produce intellectually rigorous research that is politically non-partisan and informed by the Catholic faith. As part of this mission, its research will promote and highlight the benefits of, and seek to dispel misconceptions about, Catholic education and related issues by going behind the headlines and beyond commonly held views.

The work of the Institute provides evidence to support Catholic Schools New South Wales in advocating for best practice in all schools, particularly in Catholic education, and to inform and engage with sector leaders and policymakers.

About Kathleen Burrow

Kathleen Burrow (1899-1987) had a strong presence in the history of Catholic education and the Catholic Church in the 20th century. From humble beginnings in NSW, she was educated at St Matthew's Convent of Mercy School in Mudgee and attended The University of Sydney. As a founding member of the University Catholic Women's Association, Kathleen began working as a teacher, focusing on physical education in schools and identifying a particular need for this at orphanages and disadvantaged schools. She would go on to establish the Graham-Burrow School of Physical Education.

Kathleen Burrow embodied much of what it means to be a Catholic educator, holding a deep faith while being a caring mentor, principled advocate, and superb communicator and organiser who promoted social harmony among divergent groups. She was President of the Legion of Catholic Women and the Australian Council of Catholic Women. Her outstanding example makes her an appropriate patron of the Kathleen Burrow Research Institute.

Endnotes

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Note this analysis was conducted in 2018 and before the school funding model change from SES to DMI scores.

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[14] Bonnor et al. (2020) uses the *Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage* (ICSEA) to estimate each school's entitlements to government funding. This metric does not take into account parents' income levels, and is not used to determine base funding for non-government schools.

[15] Australian Department of Education (2024), '2024 CTC scores for non-government schools', <https://www.education.gov.au/school-funding/resources/2024-ctc-scores>

[16] Greenwell & Bonnor 2023 group schools into three bands, rather than analysing each school individually

[17] Australian Department of Education (2024) 'How is school funding indexed?' <https://www.education.gov.au/download/14587/how-school-funding-indexed/35933/document/docx>

[18] According to ACARA ***MySchool*** data, total government recurrent funding of schools was $70,718,471,044 in 2023. Of this amount, $21,675,937,352 was directed towards non-government schools. Applying the 2023-24 Base Funding Indexation Rate of 4.0% to these figures, yields $73,547,209,886 and $22,542,974,846 respectively. Given the taxpayer savings in recurrent funding from non-government schools are estimated as $6.88 billion in 2024, this is equivalent to 9% of government recurrent funding for all schools, or 31% of government recurrent funding of non-government schools.

[19] According to Australian Bureau of Statistics figures for 2024, Catholic schools enrol 820,061 students and Independent schools enrol 691,883 students (FTEs), <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/latest-release>.

[20] National School Resourcing Board (2018), 'Review of the socio-economic status score methodology', <https://www.education.gov.au/download/4248/national-school-resourcing-board-ses-review-final-report/6329/document/pdf>

[21] According to Australian Bureau of Statistics figures for 2024, non-government schools enrol 720,579 primary students and 791,365 secondary students (FTEs), <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/latest-release>.

[22] In 2024, the base funding per student was $13,570 for primary students and $17,053 for secondary students.

[23] Australian Department of Education (2025), 'Better and Fairer Schools Agreement', <https://www.education.gov.au/recurrent-funding-schools/national-school-reform-agreement/better-and-fairer-schools-agreement-20252034>

[24] Australian Department of Education (2024), 'Bilateral Agreement between New South Wales and the Commonwealth on Quality Schools Reform', <https://www.education.gov.au/download/4346/new-south-wales-bilateral-agreement/35966/extended-agreement/pdf>

[25] Australian Department of Education (2024), 'Bilateral Agreement between Victoria and the Commonwealth on Quality Schools Reform', <https://www.education.gov.au/download/4413/victoria-bilateral-agreement/35926/extended-agreement/pdf>

[26] Australian Department of Education (2024), 'Bilateral Agreement between Queensland and the Commonwealth on Implementation of School Education Reform', <https://www.education.gov.au/download/4409/queensland-bilateral-agreement/35915/extended-agreement/pdf>

[27] Australian Department of Education (2024), 'Bilateral Agreement between Western Australia and the Commonwealth on Quality Schools Reform', <https://www.education.gov.au/download/4379/western-australia-bilateral-agreement/35930/extended-agreement/pdf>

[28] Australian Department of Education (2024), 'Bilateral Agreement between the South Australia and the Commonwealth on Quality Schools Reform', <https://www.education.gov.au/download/4341/south-australia-bilateral-agreement/35918/extended-agreement/pdf>

[29] Australian Department of Education (2024), 'Bilateral Agreement between Tasmania and the Commonwealth on Quality Schools Reform', <https://www.education.gov.au/download/4391/tasmania-bilateral-agreement/35922/extended-agreement/pdf>

[30] Australian Department of Education (2024), 'Bilateral Agreement between the Australian Capital Territory and the Commonwealth on Quality Schools Reform', <https://www.education.gov.au/download/4400/australian-capital-territory-bilateral-agreement/35907/extended-agreement/pdf>

[31] Australian Department of Education (2024), 'Bilateral Agreement between the Northern Territory and the Commonwealth on Quality Schools Reform', <https://www.education.gov.au/download/4390/northern-territory-bilateral-agreement/36006/extended-agreement/pdf>

[32] Australian Department of Education (2024), 'Schooling Resource Standard', <https://www.education.gov.au/recurrent-funding-schools/schooling-resource-standard>

[33] Australian Department of Education (2024), 'How much Australian Government funding is provided to schools in each state and territory?', <https://www.education.gov.au/download/3869/how-much-australian-government-funding-provided-schools-each-state-and-territory/26810/how-much-australian-government-funding-provided-schools-each-state-and-territory/pdf>

[34] ACARA (2024), 'My School', <https://www.myschool.edu.au/>

[35] Australian Department of Education (2024), 'FQ 2024 Data Reporting Guide', <https://schools.education.gov.au/SchoolsHub/articlehelp/?subjectid=949338ca-0a5d-e911-8105-023171a33a53>

[36] Capital Expenditure from Private (non-government) sources calculated as 'Capital Expenditure: New School Loans' + 'Capital Expenditure: Income Allocated to Current Capital Projects' + 'Capital Expenditure: Other Private Sources'.

[37] *RI/MPJP Catholic schools* refers to Catholic schools run by *Religious Institutes or Ministerial Public Juridic Persons* (a particular type of entity defined in Canon Law). Such schools, while still under the authority of the local Bishop, are run independently rather than through the diocese schools office.

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