

THE FACTS ON SCHOOL FUNDING IN AUSTRALIA



School funding can be a confusing and contentious topic – so it's important that parents and school communities know the facts.

This leaflet explains how and why governments fund all not-for-profit schools, including Catholic schools.



KEY STATISTICS (2018) - CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN AUSTRALIA

Schools



1750

Students



764,190

Staff



96,098

Catholic schools have educated Australian students for almost 200 years

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS EDUCATE 1 IN 5 STUDENTS



THE COST OF A SCHOOL EDUCATION

The true cost of a school education in Australia is much higher than most people realise. The Federal Government calculates the basic cost at \$11,343 per primary student and \$14,254 per secondary student for 2019. That would be a huge cost for most Australian families, especially if they have two or more children.

This is why state/territory and federal governments provide some funding to all not-for-profit school sectors.



PRIMARY STUDENT
\$11,343



SECONDARY STUDENT
\$14,254

HOW GOVERNMENT FUNDING IS CALCULATED

Funding for all schools in all sectors is calculated using the same needs-based measure – the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS).

Each school's SRS is calculated according to the needs of its students, starting with a base amount - \$11,343 per primary student or \$14,254 per secondary student plus extra funding for six types of disadvantage.

So a primary school educating many disadvantaged students may have an SRS of more than \$17,000 per student, while another educating highly advantaged students may have an SRS of less than \$12,000 per student.

The SRS is a funding target and was introduced in 2014. For many state and territory governments, it represents a big jump in their school funding commitments as they are the majority funders of public schools which educate two-thirds of all students. Meeting the SRS is therefore being phased in over several years with Federal assistance.

WHO PAYS THE SRS?

In public schools, the SRS is funded solely by state/territory and federal governments; parents are not required to contribute.

In Catholic and other non-government schools, state/territory and federal governments fund 20-90% of the SRS base amount according to a means test of the school's parents, who are expected to make up the shortfall. The more parents can afford to pay, the less public funding a non-government school attracts.

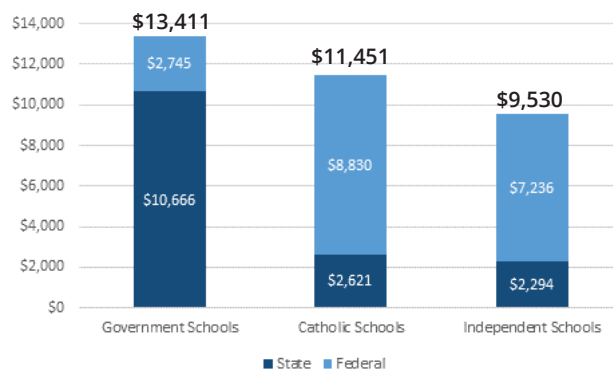
IT'S A FACT



- Funding for all students in all school sectors is calculated using the same needs-based measure - the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS)
 - In public schools, the SRS is solely funded by taxpayers
 - In Catholic and other non-government schools, parents pay part of the SRS according to an assessment of their ability to pay
 - Public school funding has never been cut to fund Catholic schools. Funding for public schools has risen every year in line with enrolments and indexation
- Catholic Education supports a strong, properly funded public schools sector
 - All Australian students should have access to a quality education, no matter which school they attend
- Catholic school parents are also taxpayers and deserve a fair share of government funding support to keep their children's schools affordable
- By keeping Catholic schools affordable, one in five Australian children can attend a school that reflects their parents' values and beliefs - an important feature of a pluralist society
- Catholic schools save taxpayers money; without affordable Catholic schools, taxpayers would need to fund 100% of the cost of educating Catholic school students, instead of around 70%

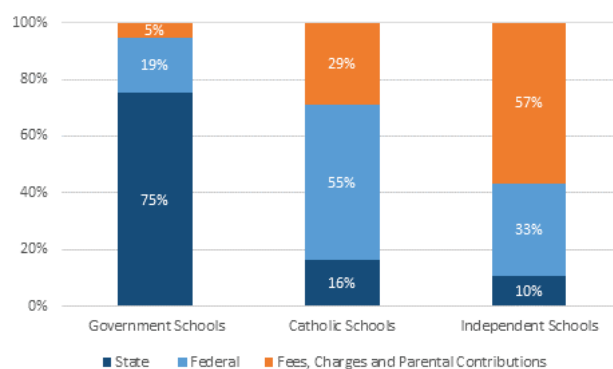
HOW MUCH GOVERNMENT FUNDING DO SCHOOLS RECEIVE?

2017 TOTAL GOVERNMENT RECURRENT FUNDING (per student average)



HOW MUCH DO CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS PAY?

SOURCES OF RECURRENT FUNDING 2017



Catholic school communities, on average, contribute almost 30% of the cost of educating their students. The remainder is covered by a combination of state/territory and federal government funding.

Without this government funding support, Catholic systemic schools would need to charge parents the full cost of educating their child. This would put a Catholic education out of reach for most Australian families, forcing them onto the public schools sector which is already stretched.

In 2017, Catholic school communities paid \$3.6 billion in fees and \$1.27 billion in capital funding to support their schools. This represents a significant saving to taxpayers.

2017 FUNDING SOURCES - CAPITAL

