



# INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN QUEENSLAND SNAPSHOT

The Independent school sector in Queensland is a diverse and growing group of non-government schools. This is a snapshot of the key characteristics of the Queensland Independent school sector, those who are enrolled, those who work in Independent schools, and how these schools are funded.

The Independent school figures in this snapshot include Independent Catholic schools, except where otherwise indicated.

## 2023 EDITION

LATEST AVAILABLE FACTS AND FIGURES

### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL SECTOR

BROAD CHOICE FOR PARENTS

STRONG COMMUNITY LINKS

DIVERSITY OF SCHOOL TYPE,  
SIZE AND FOCUS

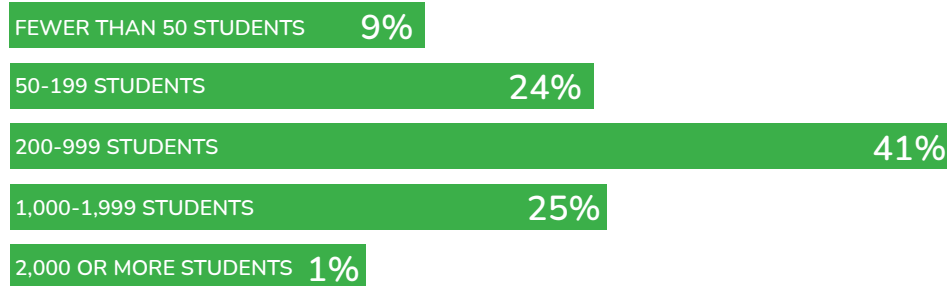
AUTONOMOUS GOVERNANCE  
ARRANGEMENTS

COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

## SCHOOL METRICS

In 2022, there were 230 Independent schools of which 34 were boarding schools. Most Independent schools in Queensland are co-educational.

### SIZE OF QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



### NUMBER OF QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

PRIMARY	32	14%
SECONDARY	18	8%
COMBINED	148	64%
SPECIAL SCHOOLS	32	14%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>100%</b>

### TYPE OF QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

BOYS' SCHOOLS	4%
GIRLS' SCHOOLS	4%
CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOLS	92%

230 SCHOOLS  
+44 CAMPUSES



INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN QLD

615



AVERAGE NUMBER  
OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A  
QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

457



AVERAGE NUMBER OF  
STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A  
QLD GOVERNMENT SCHOOL

# SCHOOL PROFILE

Independent schools have diverse religious or philosophical affiliations. They represent a range of approaches to teaching and learning.



80%

QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS WITH A RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

## AFFILIATIONS OF QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS BY NUMBER OF ENROLMENTS

2021

AFFILIATION	SCHOOLS	STUDENT FTE	%
CHRISTIAN	40	27,484	19.4%
ANGLICAN	23	27,258	19.3%
NON-DENOMINATIONAL	43	22,355	15.8%
LUTHERAN	26	20,204	14.3%
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD	10	6,646	4.7%
UNITING CHURCH	7	5,907	4.2%
INTER-DENOMINATIONAL	6	5,495	3.9%
BAPTIST	7	3,617	2.6%
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST	10	2,792	2.0%
ISLAMIC	2	2,690	1.9%
BRETHREN	3	2,651	1.9%
PRESBYTERIAN	2	2,157	1.5%
PENTECOSTAL	2	1,415	1.0%
STEINER	5	1,030	0.7%
MONTESSORI	4	719	0.5%
OTHER CATHOLIC	1	248	0.2%
JEWISH	1	31	0.0%
OTHER RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION	2	1,349	1.0%
OTHER*	36	7,418	5.2%

\* OTHER INCLUDES SPECIAL SCHOOLS, INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS, INDIGENOUS SCHOOLS, AND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS.



QLD SCHOOL LOCATIONS

## GOVERNANCE

Independent schools are generally not-for-profit institutions founded by groups in the community. All Independent schools are registered with the relevant state or territory education authorities.

Independent schools are primarily accountable to their parent and school communities.

Forty-seven (20 per cent) Independent schools in Queensland operate within an approved system authority. These include the Lutheran, Anglican and Seventh Day Adventist Systems.

All QLD Independent schools comply with relevant state and federal education legislation and regulation.



61%

MAJOR CITIES



38%

REGIONAL



1%

REMOTE

# STUDENT ENROLMENTS

The rate of growth of the Independent school sector has been increasing. In 2022, enrolments in QLD Independent schools grew by 3.8 per cent.



**3.8%**

MAJOR CITIES 3.5% REGIONAL 4.7%

GROWTH IN ENROLMENTS IN QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



**141,466**

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



**6,046**

INDIGENOUS STUDENTS



**1,089**

OVERSEAS STUDENTS



**3,696**

BOARDING STUDENTS



**23,500**

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY (est.)

	GOVERNMENT	CATHOLIC	INDEPENDENT
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## QLD ENROLMENTS BY SCHOOL SECTOR AND LEVEL 2022

LEVEL	GOVERNMENT	CATHOLIC	INDEPENDENT
TOTAL ENROLMENTS	65.6%	18.1%	16.3%
PRIMARY	69.7%	17.2%	13.1%
JUNIOR SECONDARY	61.4%	19.1%	19.5%
SENIOR SECONDARY	58.3%	19.9%	21.8%

PERCENTAGE SHARE %

## QLD ENROLMENT CHANGE OVER TIME BY SCHOOL SECTOR 2000-2022

YEAR	GOVERNMENT	CATHOLIC	INDEPENDENT
2000	71.4%	16.1%	12.5%
2005	69.7%	16.2%	14.1%
2010	67.1%	18.1%	14.8%
2015	66.7%	18.5%	14.8%
2020	66.9%	17.9%	15.2%
2022	65.6%	18.1%	16.3%

PERCENTAGE SHARE %

## TOTAL ADDITIONAL ENROLMENTS BY QLD SCHOOL SECTOR 2000-2022

GOVERNMENT	<b>138,079</b>
CATHOLIC	<b>60,527</b>
INDEPENDENT	<b>66,017</b>

## ENROLMENTS IN QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS 2022

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
PRIMARY	31,154	30,949	62,103
SECONDARY	39,451	39,912	79,363
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70,605</b>	<b>70,861</b>	<b>141,466</b>

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY IN QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS (est.)\* 2022

SUPPORT PROVIDED WITHIN A QUALITY DIFFERENTIATED TEACHING PRACTICE	6,900
SUPPLEMENTARY	11,600
SUBSTANTIAL	4,400
EXTENSIVE	600

\*MORE INFORMATION ON THE LEVELS OF ADJUSTMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY ARE AVAILABLE AT [WWW.NCCD.EDU.AU](http://WWW.NCCD.EDU.AU)

# SOURCES OF INCOME

Most of the income of Independent schools comes from families. Governments save an estimated \$940 million in funding due to the contribution to Queensland Independent schools from families and other private sources.



## \$940 MILLION

SAVINGS TO GOVERNMENT FROM  
QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



## \$5,163

MEDIAN ANNUAL FEE  
2021

## GOVERNMENT FUNDING OF QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Government funding for schools is provided by the Australian Government and the Queensland state government. The Australian Government is the main government funding source for non-government schools, providing 79 per cent of total government recurrent funding while the state provides 21 per cent. The state government is the main funding source for government schools. The proportions of private/government funding vary greatly from school to school.

### RECURRENT FUNDING FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION IN QLD \$ BILLION FY 2020–21

#### GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS



#### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



#### INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT QLD GOVERNMENT PRIVATE INCOME (Parents, etc)

### FUNDING MODEL

The current funding model for schools, the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) comprises base funding plus loadings to address educational disadvantage. Base funding for Independent schools is adjusted according to the school community's estimated capacity to contribute (CTC) to the costs of education, assessed on parental income tax data. This methodology is known as the Direct Measure of Income (DMI). Schools with a higher CTC score receive less per capita base funding.

### LOADINGS:

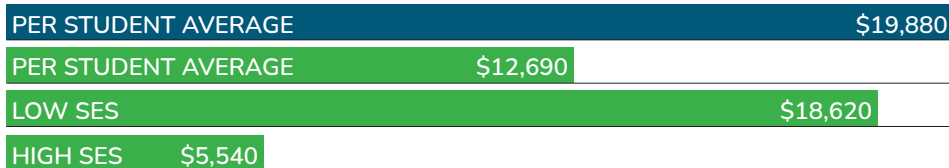
- SCHOOL LOCATION
- SCHOOL SIZE
- SOCIO-EDUCATIONAL DISADVANTAGE
- INDIGENEITY
- LOW ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY
- STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

### AVERAGE GOVERNMENT RECURRENT FUNDING PER QLD STUDENT

FY 2020–21

### TOTAL GOVERNMENT RECURRENT FUNDING PER QLD STUDENT COMPARISON

FY 2020–21



### QLD GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

ALL GOVERNMENT SOURCES. THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING RECEIVED FROM ALL GOVERNMENT SOURCES VARIES SIGNIFICANTLY DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE SCHOOL.



## SOURCES OF INCOME

Parents and communities contributed \$1.4 billion (recurrent and capital) to Queensland Independent schools.

Many Independent schools in Queensland rely on government funding to support the education of students in areas of need.

44%

PRIVATE SOURCES  
OF FUNDING

13%

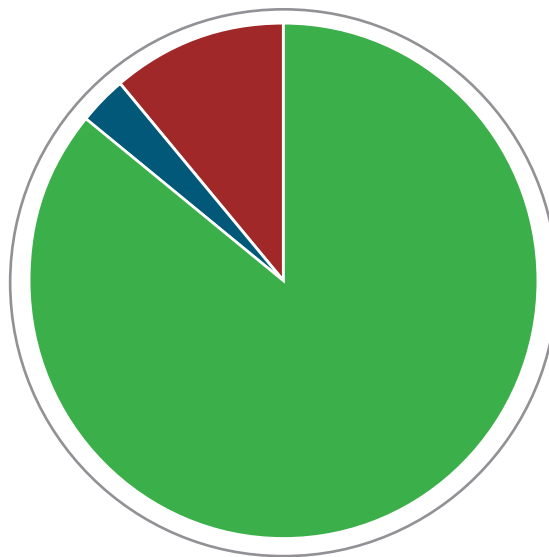
QUEENSLAND  
GOVERNMENT

43%

AUSTRALIAN  
GOVERNMENT

## MAIN SOURCES OF CAPITAL INCOME

On average, parents and communities provide 86 per cent of capital funding for Independent schools in Queensland. The amount of capital funding in Queensland Independent schools from private sources in 2021 was \$237 million.



86%

PRIVATE SOURCES  
PARENTS AND DONORS

Most capital funding is sourced through borrowing, fund raising, levies on parents or school reserves.

3%

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CAPITAL  
GRANTS PROGRAM FOR QLD

In 2021 the Australian Government provided \$9.5 million in capital grants to Queensland Independent schools. In 2022 it is estimated that grants for the Queensland Independent sector will total approximately \$16.8 million.

In the Independent sector Australian Government capital grants are distributed on a needs basis through Block Grant Authorities, with priority given to disadvantaged school communities with the least capacity to raise funds.

11%

QLD STATE CAPITAL  
FUNDING

In 2021 the Queensland Government provided \$28.9 million in capital grants to Queensland Independent schools.

# SCHOOL TEACHERS

Independent schools employ more than 19 per cent of all teachers in Australian schools. **Queensland Independent schools employ more than 16.5 per cent of all teachers in Queensland schools.**



**16.5%**

QLD TEACHERS EMPLOYED BY INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

## TEACHERS IN THE QLD INDEPENDENT SECTOR BY GENDER AND LEVEL (FTE) 2022

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
PRIMARY TEACHERS	807	3,106	3,895		
PER CENT %	20.1%	79.9%	100%		
SECONDARY TEACHERS	2,812	3,925	6,737		
PER CENT %	41.7%	58.3%	100%		

10,379

NUMBER OF TEACHERS FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT

11,348

NUMBER OF TEACHERS HEAD COUNT

21,534

NUMBER OF TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING STAFF

## QLD STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIOS

CHANGE 2000 – 2022

	GOVERNMENT		NON-GOVERNMENT			
	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	CATHOLIC PRIMARY	CATHOLIC SECONDARY	INDEPENDENT PRIMARY	INDEPENDENT SECONDARY
2000	16.7	12.5	18.1	13.3	16.6	12.6
2005	15.5	13.0	17.1	13.1	15.1	11.9
2010	15.4	12.6	18.1	12.9	16.7	11.9
2015	14.8	12.7	17.2	12.8	15.5	12.1
2020	14.3	12.1	16.3	12.3	15.5	11.9
2022	14.2	12.1	16.2	12.4	15.5	11.7



## STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIOS (AVERAGE)

INDEPENDENT	13.1 TO 1
CATHOLIC	14.1 TO 1
GOVERNMENT	13.2 TO 1

SOURCES: FIGURES IN SNAPSHOT ARE DERIVED FROM DATA PROVIDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS, THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION AND THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING AUTHORITY. SOME FIGURES MAY NOT ADD DUE TO ROUNDING. FUNDING FIGURES IN THE SNAPSHOT USE THE LATEST AVAILABLE FINANCIAL DATA WHICH IS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-21, OR FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2021. UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, STUDENT ENROLMENT FIGURES ARE FULL TIME EQUIVALENT.

PRODUCED BY INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA



**Independent Schools Queensland**

choice & diversity