

# Indigenous Student Enrolments

## Key Points

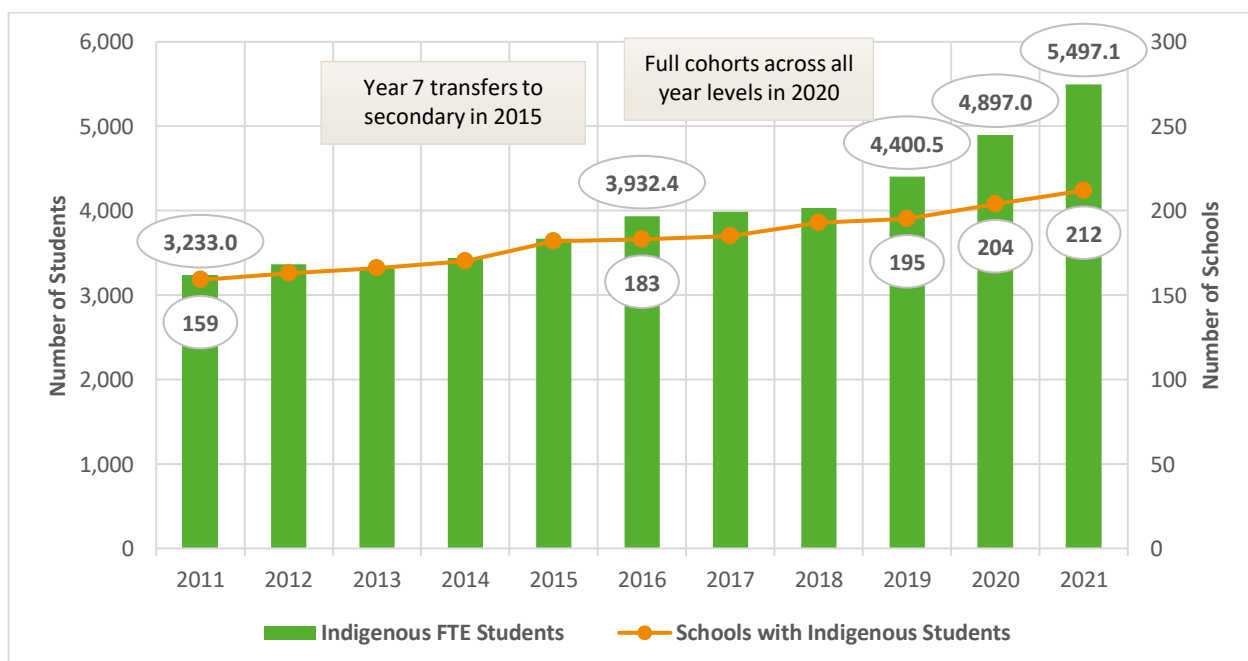
The number of Indigenous students attending independent schools in Queensland continues to increase, along with the number of schools that cater for Indigenous students. In the past year, Indigenous enrolments increased by 12.3%, while the percentage of independent schools catering for Indigenous students decreased slightly in the same period; from 93.6% in 2020 to 93.4% in 2021.

## Enrolments

In 2021, the independent schooling sector catered for 5,497.1 FTE Indigenous student enrolments, a significant increase from 4,897.0 Indigenous student enrolments in 2020. This increase of 600.1 FTE Indigenous enrolments is equivalent to a 12.3% increase in enrolments (refer Figure 1). Similarly, high rates of increase were experienced in the previous two years, from 2018 to 2019 and from 2019 to 2020, when Indigenous enrolments increased by 9.2% (+370.3 students) and 11.3% (+496.1 students), respectively. The growth rates over the past three years are the highest annual growth rates experienced in the past decade.

Over the past decade, Indigenous full-time equivalent (FTE) enrolments have evidenced an average annual growth rate of 5.5%, representing an increase of 2,264.1 enrolments, or 70% increase in the number of FTE enrolments overall.

**Figure 1: Indigenous Student Enrolments & Number of Schools Attended, 2011-2021**



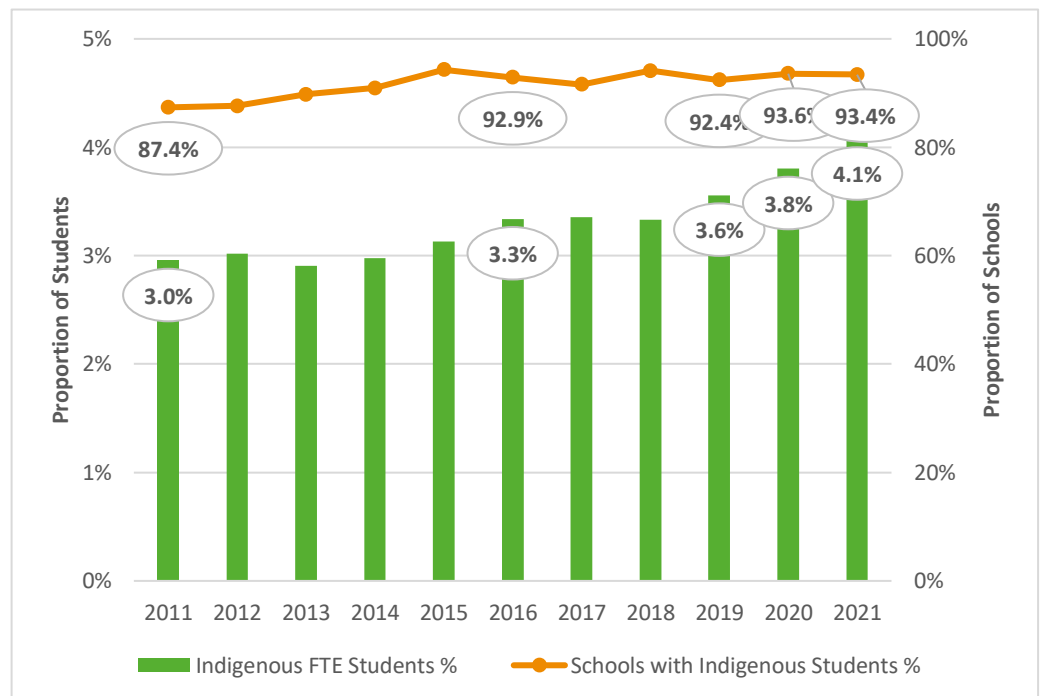
## Schools

The number of independent schools catering for Indigenous students also increased over time. Ten years ago, in 2011, 159 of 182 independent schools in Queensland (87.4% of schools) catered for 3,233 Indigenous FTE enrolments. In 2021 the number of independent schools catering for Indigenous students had increased to 212, representing 93.4% of all independent schools in Queensland.

Indigenous student enrolments as a proportion of independent school enrolments has also increased over time, with highest rates of increase evidenced in recent years.

In 2021 Indigenous student enrolments represented 4.1% of all FTE enrolments at independent schools, up from 3.8% in 2020 and 3.6% in 2019 (refer Figure 2). Over the period from 2016 to 2018, the proportion of Indigenous students was stable at 3.3%, while in the period from 2010 to 2015, Indigenous students represented 2.9% to 3.1% of independent school enrolments.

**Figure 2: Indigenous Student Share of Independent School Enrolments & Schools, 2011-2021**



## Year Level Structure

More Indigenous students are enrolled in secondary year levels than primary year levels, with 60.7% of Indigenous students in 2021 in secondary years (3,337.5 students) compared to 39.3% of Indigenous students in primary years (refer Table 1 below). Ten years earlier, in 2011, 38.2% of Indigenous students were enrolled in primary and 61.8% were enrolled in secondary.

Prep enrolments are important indicators of future intakes of students into the primary schooling system. In 2021, the number of Indigenous Prep students reached the highest level of any time in the past decade, reaching 314.0 FTE enrolments, 23.6 more than in 2020. Ten years earlier, in 2011, there were 139 Indigenous students enrolled in Prep at independent schools.

In 2021, there were 547 Indigenous students enrolled in Year 7, an increase from 508 Year 7 Indigenous students enrolled in 2020. Ten years earlier, in 2011 when Year 8 was the first year of secondary, there were 333 Indigenous students enrolled in Year 8 at independent schools (refer Table 1).

**Table 1: Independent Indigenous Students by Year Level, 2011-2021**

Year	Prep	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Pri Ung.	Sec. Ung.	Total
2011	139	174	169	151	107	173	167	179	333	361	407	402	406	19	46	3,233.0
2012	146	184.3	189.3	166	168	120	179	217	347	389	421	416	412	1	12	3,367.6
2013	181	166	192	191	175	184	132	192	353.8	370.6	405.8	405	341	2	19	3,310.2
2014	202	216	187	206	218	207	201.3	161	351	346	366.6	430.6	327	0	19	3,438.5
2015	227	207	232	213	220	227	219	361	244	350	361	414	378	5.2	12.2	3,670.4
2016	207	244	213	223	220	234	239	378	430	302	384	465	368.6	5.6	19.2	3,932.4
2017	215	213	245	237	237	251	248	394	391	418	315	425	372.4	6	21.4	3,988.8
2018	253	233.2	235	259	250.5	257	264	382	430.5	378	390	330	328	5.2	34.8	4,030.2
2019	238	270	251.3	246	291	275	283	467	435	447	425	440	284	9.8	23.4	4,385.5
2020	290.4	257.4	289.4	249.8	279	314	284	508	538	486	539	480	361	8	13	4,897.0
2021	314	312	286	304	291	308	338	547	562	588	556	607	447.3	6.6	30.2	5,497.1

## Trends in Progression

Progression identifies the extent of movement of students into and out of individual year levels by comparing the number of students in one year level to the number of students that were in the same cohort of students in the preceding year (e.g. a comparison of Year 8 in 2021 to the number of students in Year 7 in 2020).

Since Year 7 became the first year of secondary in 2015, the highest progression of students into schools occurs from Year 6 to Year 7. In 2021, there were 263 more Indigenous students in Year 7 than had been enrolled in Year 6 in the previous year (refer Table 2). This was the highest level of in-migration into any grade experienced in the past decade.

**Table 2: Indigenous Students, Apparent Progression by Year Level, 2011-2012 to 2020-2021**

Period	Apparent Progression (Number)												Apparent Progression Rate (%)	
	P-Y1	Y1-2	Y2-3	Y3-4	Y4-5	Y5-6	Y6-7	Y7-8	Y8-9	Y9-10	Y10-11	Y11-12	Y10-11	Y11-12
2011-12	45	15	-3	17	13	6	50	168	56	60	9	10	102%	102%
2012-13	20	8	2	9	16	12	13	137	24	17	-16	-75	96%	82%
2013-14	35	21	14	27	32	17	29	159	-8	-4	25	-78	106%	81%
2014-15	5	16	26	14	9	12	160	83	-1	15	47	-53	113%	88%
2015-16	17	6	-9	7	14	12	159	69	58	34	104	-45	129%	89%
2016-17	6	1	24	14	31	14	155	13	-12	13	41	-93	111%	80%
2017-18	18	22	14	14	20	13	134	37	-13	-28	15	-97	105%	77%
2018-19	17	18	11	32	25	26	203	53	17	47	50	-46	113%	86%
2019-20	19	19	-2	33	23	9	225	71	51	92	55	-79	113%	82%
2020-21	22	29	15	41	29	24	263	54	50	70	68	-33	113%	93%

Year 11 to Year 12 is the only transition where Indigenous students are almost always lost from schools, indicated by progression rates of less than 100% existing since 2012-13. In the 2020 to 2021 period, 93% of Year 11 students progressed to Year 12, representing a net loss of 33 Indigenous students. The highest progression rate from Year 11 to 12 occurred in 2012, when Year 12 represented 102% of the previous year's Year 11 students, reflecting a net gain of 10 additional students into Year 12.

## Size of Indigenous Enrolments at Schools

Of the 212 schools catering for Indigenous students in 2021, four schools catered for more than 150 Indigenous students (refer Table 3). These four schools catered for 17.9% of Indigenous student enrolments at independent schools. A further 29.5% of Indigenous students attended 24 schools where total Indigenous student enrolments ranged from more than 50 students to 150 students, while another 59 schools catered for more than 20 Indigenous students to 50 students. The balance of Indigenous students, 18.7% of students, attended 125 schools where Indigenous student enrolments totalled 20 or fewer students.

**Table 3: Size of Indigenous Student Enrolments, 2021**

Indigenous Enrolment Range	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools	Percentage of Indigenous Students
0 Students	15	6.6%	0.0%
>1-5 Students	44	19.4%	2.3%
>5-10 Students	38	16.7%	5.3%
>10-20 Students	43	18.9%	11.1%
>20-50 Students	59	26.0%	34.0%
>50-150 Students	24	10.6%	29.5%
>150-300 Students	3	1.3%	12.0%
300+ Students	1	0.4%	5.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 4: Indigenous Student Enrolments as a Percentage of Each Schools' Total Enrolment, 2021**

Indigenous Enrolment as % of Total Enrolments	Number of Schools	Percentage of Indigenous Students
None	15	0.0%
>0-5%	125	33.4%
>5-10%	42	22.2%
>10-20%	22	10.2%
>20%-50%	11	8.3%
>50%-90%	5	11.3%
>90%<100%	4	7.1%
100%	3	7.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>100%</b>

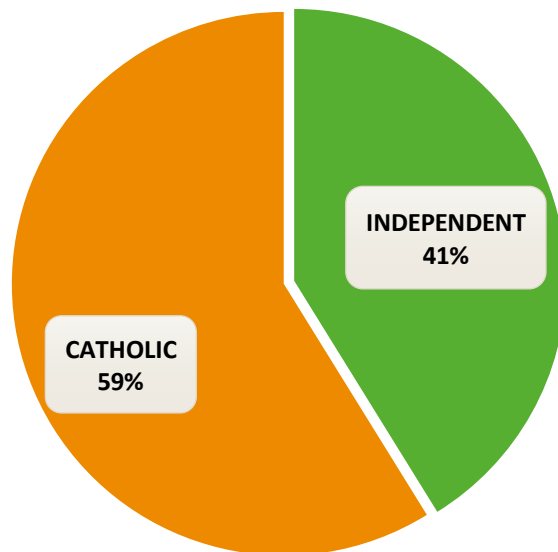
The majority of Indigenous students attended schools where Indigenous students represent 10% or less of the school's total enrolment. In 2021, 55.6% of Indigenous students attended 167 schools (refer Table 4).

Three schools catered solely for Indigenous students, together accounting for 7.3% of Indigenous students. In a further four schools, Indigenous students represented more than 90% of enrolments, but less than 100% of students, while in another five schools, Indigenous students represented more than 50% to 90% of enrolments (refer Table 4). Together these 12 schools catered for 25.7% of Indigenous FTE enrolments at independent schools.

## Non-Government School Sectors

**Figure 3: Distribution of Non-Government School Indigenous Students by Sector, 2021**

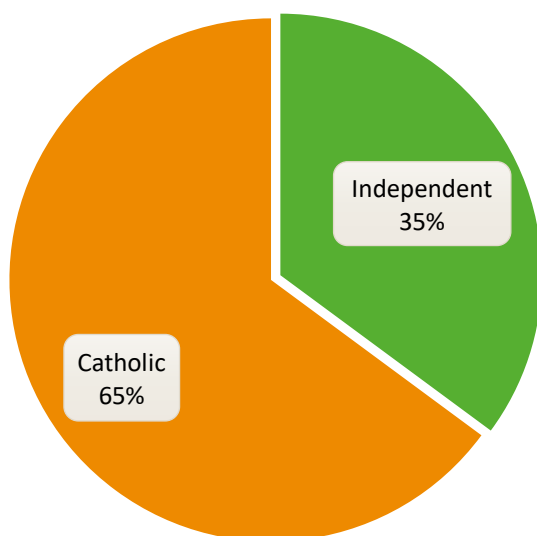
In 2021, independent schools catered for 41% of those Indigenous students that attended non-government schools. The balance of Indigenous enrolments (59%) attended Catholic schools (refer Figure 3).



In the previous year, 2020, independent school market share was lower, when 60% of Indigenous students attending non-government schools were enrolled in Catholic schools and 40% were enrolled in independent schools.

Independent schools cater for a higher proportion of Indigenous secondary students attending non-government schools than Indigenous primary students attending non-government schools (46% compared to 35%, respectively) (refer Figure 4 and Figure 5 below).

**Figure 4: Distribution of Non-Government School Indigenous Primary Students by Sector, 2021**



**Figure 5: Distribution of Non-Government School Indigenous Secondary Students by Sector, 2021**

