

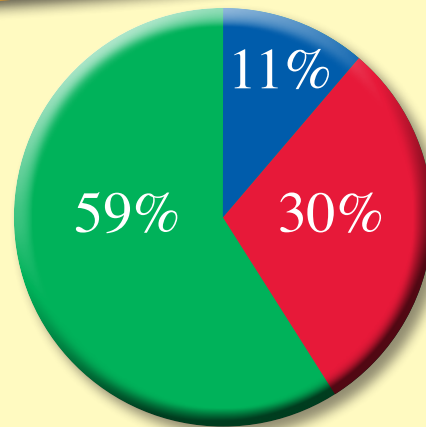
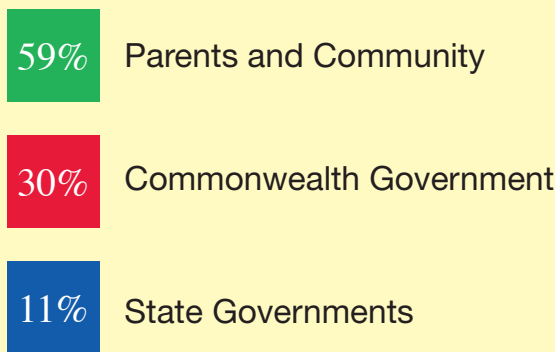
FAQs on School Funding

1 Do independent schools save the government and tax-payers money?

Yes, parents contribute, on average, almost 60% of the cost of educating students in an independent school, and almost 70% of the cost of developing infrastructure in these schools. Independent schools save governments (State and Federal) almost 60% of the cost of educating a child in a government schools. If students moved from an independent to a government school the government's bill for education would increase dramatically.

Figure 1

Comparative Cost Breakdown of Student Education

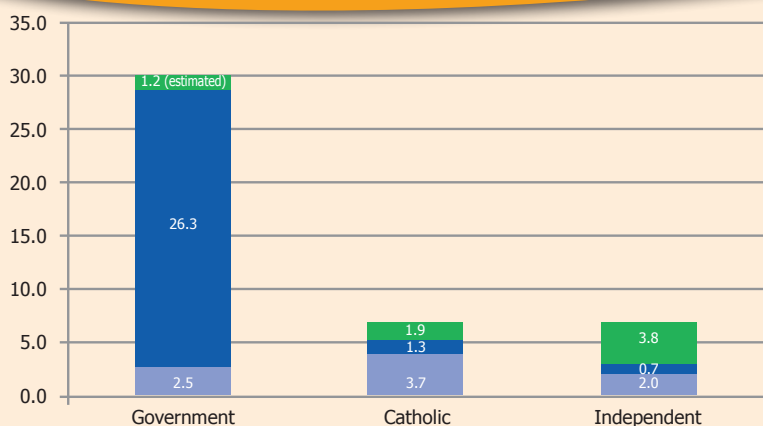


2 How accurate is the assertion that the Australian Government gives more money to independent schools than government schools?

The Australian Government is the main source of funding for students in independent schools, as government schools are funded primarily by State Governments. On average, however, governments (State and Federal) contribute less per independent school student compared to government school students. (From the Productivity Commission Report expenditure on independent school students in WA was an average of 43% of expenditure on Government school student in 2009).

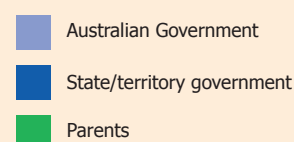
Figure 2

Schools Recurrent Funding 2007 - 2008



Source: Productivity Commission Report on Government Services 2010 and FQ 2007 and 2008 (latest available data).

Note: Government sector parental contributions estimate only.



2007-2008

FAQs on School Funding *(continued)*

3 *Why should all students get some government funding?*

Every Australian student should be entitled to some government assistance with their education as all students will grow up to be members of Australian society and contribute to Australia's progress and well being.

4 *Who pays for most of the cost of buildings in independent schools?*

Parents, the school community and sometimes benefactors pay most of the cost of buildings. There is some contribution available to assist schools and this is directed at less wealthy schools and is only a small proportion of the cost of building classrooms and facilities.

5 *Why do some independent schools have better facilities than government schools?*

Facilities in independent schools are funded primarily by parents and the school community. When buildings are planned a building fund is established and donations made to the fund. The balance of the cost is often from loans which must be paid back generally from fees. The school determines the quality of the building and what the school can afford. Independent schools work very hard to get the best value for the money they have raised or borrowed so often get better value for money than a government school.

6 *Do independent schools take money away from government schools?*

No. independent schools actually free up money in the education bucket as the bulk of the cost of educating a child in an independent school comes from parents.

7 *Who sends their children to independent schools?*

Parents from all backgrounds send their children to independent schools and they make this choice on where they feel the needs of their child will be best met.

8 *How does the current funding model for schools work?*

At the national level schools have an SES (socio economic status) index determined by the characteristics of each census district from which students attending a particular school reside. Those from mainly higher socio economic areas result in the school having a high SES and from lower socio economic areas a low SES. High SES means low government funding and a low SES means more government funding. At the state level schools have a state funding category again determined by the need of the school so poorer schools receive more money per capita than 'wealthier' schools.

9 *How can Australians know independent schools meet high standards of education and care?*

All independent schools go through a state registration process to ensure they meet high standards of education and care.

10 *Why do different independent schools charge different fees?*

Schools determine their fees based on the cost of education provision in that school. This cost will vary depending upon many factors including total salary bill, cost of maintenance of buildings and grounds, cost of building programs, and consumable costs for the provision of curriculum and co-curricular activities.

11 *Do independent schools make significant profits?*

Independent schools are not for profit but do need to accumulate savings as part of their building cycle. Any surpluses made at an independent school in any one year will be funds being accumulated for capital investment into future buildings.

12 *With regard to schooling what does freedom of choice mean? Why is it important?*

Parents should be free to choose a school for their children that suit their needs, their interests and aspirations. Increasingly parents research schools to select a school that suits an individual child and at times that means children from the same family attend different schools. The right school for a child is important to ensure good outcomes from education. The independent sector has a diverse range of schools and provides many different educational solutions for young people.