

THE FACTS ON SCHOOL FUNDING IN NSW

Source: MySchool 2016 data

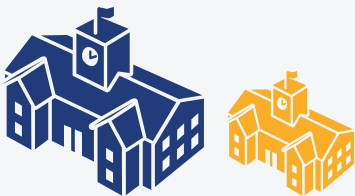
School funding can be a confusing and contentious topic – so it's important that parents and school communities know the facts.

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

Key statistics (2018)

● Australia
● New South Wales

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



1741

595

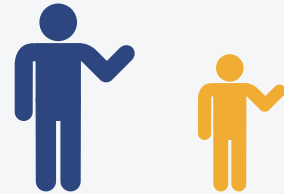
STUDENTS



765,000+

255,000+

STAFF



94,000

23,000



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS EDUCATE 1 IN 5 STUDENTS

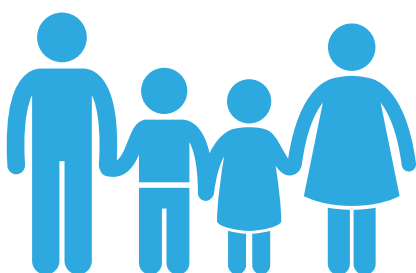
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS HAVE EDUCATED AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS FOR ALMOST

200 YEARS

The cost of a school education

The average cost of educating a child – in a government or non-government school – is more than \$13,000 a year. That would be a huge cost for most Australian families, especially if they have two or more children.

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



\$13,000+
PER CHILD
PER YEAR

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).

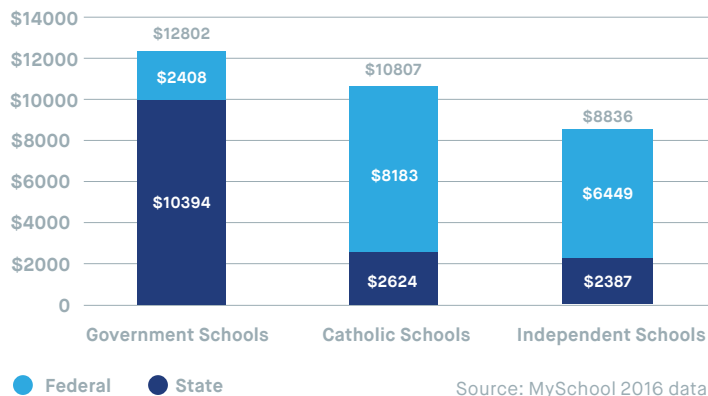
Each school's SRS is calculated according to the needs of its students, starting with a base amount (in 2019, it is \$11,343 per primary student or \$14,254 per secondary student) plus extra funding for six types of disadvantage.

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; they are the majority funders of public schools which educate two-thirds of all students – so meeting the SRS is a large commitment for state and territory governments and is therefore being phased in over several years with Federal assistance.

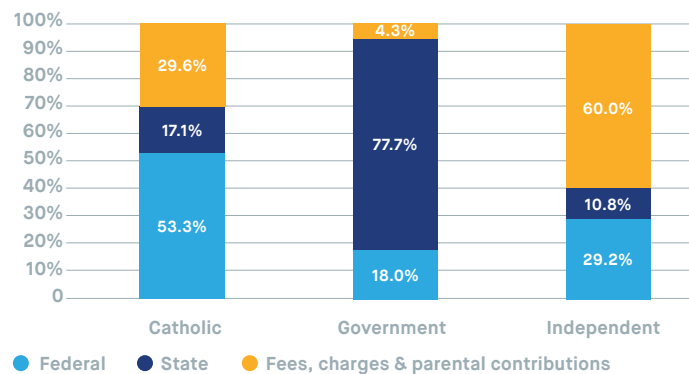
How much government funding do public and Catholic schools receive?

2016 Total Government Recurrent Funding (per student)



How much do Catholic school parents pay?

Sources of recurrent funding 2016

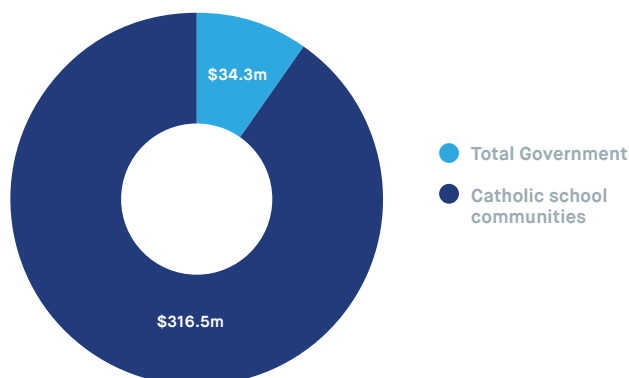


Catholic school communities, on average, contribute some 30% of the cost of educating their students. The remaining 70% is covered by a combination of State and Federal government funding.

Without this government funding support, Catholic systemic schools would need to charge parents more than \$13,000 a year to educate 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 at capacity.

In 2016, NSW Catholic school communities paid \$1.17 billion in fees and \$316.5 million in capital funding to support their schools. This represents a significant saving to taxpayers, who provided \$2.76 billion in recurrent funding and \$34.3 million in capital funding.

2016 funding sources – capital



Who pays the SRS

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

In Catholic and other non-government schools, state and territory 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 must 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
 - Public schools exist in hundreds more towns and suburbs than Catholic schools and therefore are the only option for many families
 - One in six public school students comes from a Catholic family
- 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 more than a quarter of a million NSW Catholic school students, instead of just 70%