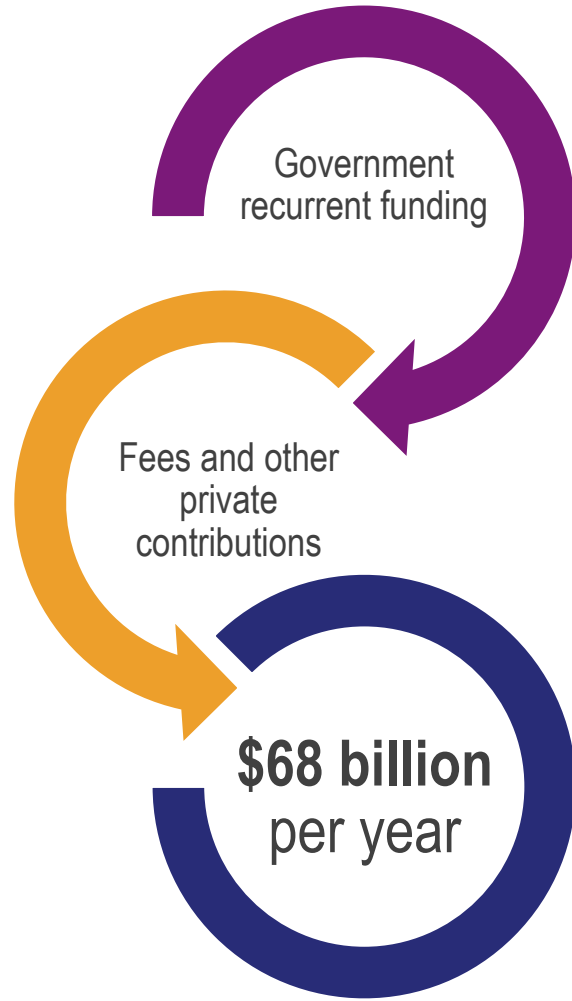


School Funding



WHAT DOES A SCHOOL EDUCATION COST?



Recurrent funding

Most people underestimate the cost of educating children and young people in Australian schools.

In 2021 the minimum (or “base”) cost of school education for every Australian student is:

- \$12,099 for a primary student, and
- \$15,204 for a secondary student

Students in priority cohorts and disadvantaged schools attract higher amounts of funding to respond to specific needs and enable priority students to achieve their full potential.

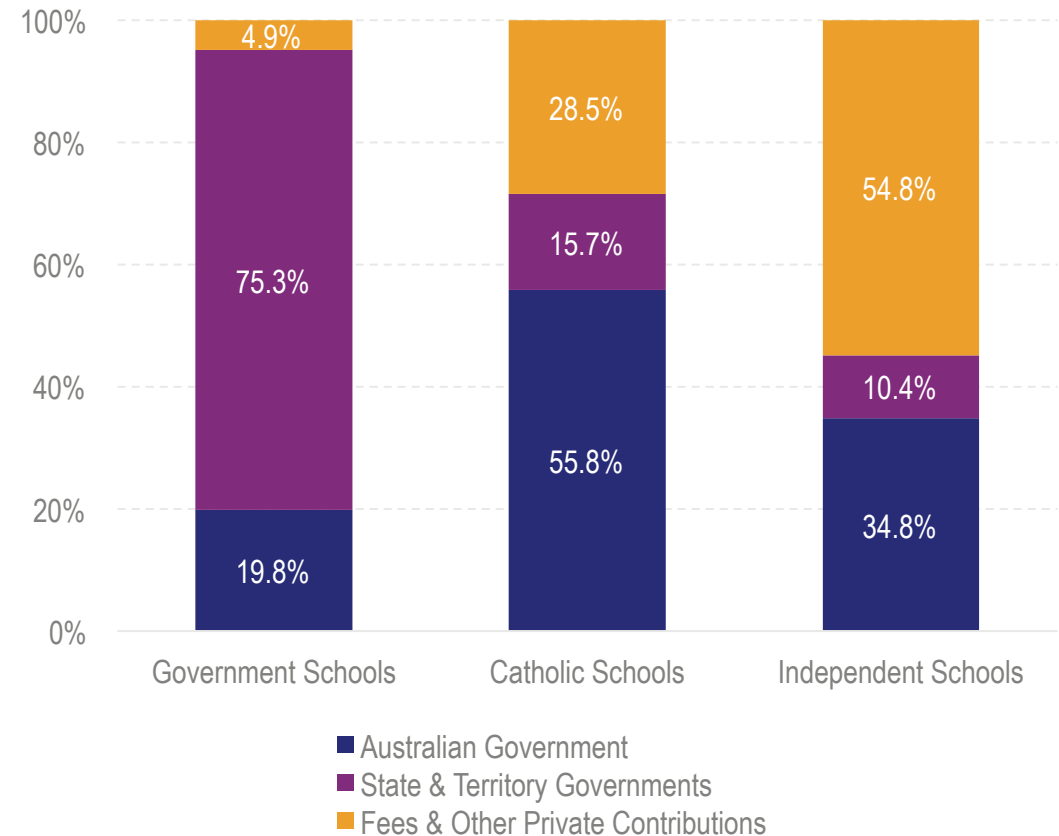
Per student funding is called “recurrent funding” and it must be spent directly on students and staff.

WHO PAYS FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION?

Responsibility for funding the per student cost of education is shared by the Australian Government, by state and territory governments and by parents and non-government school communities.

- The Australian Government provides more than half of per student funding for Catholic schools, while private income is the principal source of independent schools' funding.
- Government school students are mainly funded by governments, with state and territory governments contributing $\frac{3}{4}$ of total per student funding for government schools

Sources of Recurrent Funding, 2019



Data source: ACARA, My School, Financial Data, 2019

Sources of recurrent funding (2019)

\$ Billions	Australian Government	State & Territory Governments	Parents & School Communities	Total
Catholic Schools	7.52	2.12	3.85	13.49
Independent Schools	4.83	1.44	7.62	13.89
Government Schools	8.00	30.40	1.95	40.35
All Schools	20.35	33.96	13.42	67.73

HOW IS PER STUDENT FUNDING CALCULATED?

Base Funding

The Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) benchmark establishes the minimum cost of educating each Australian student. This minimum amount is called “base” funding. In 2021 base funding per student is:



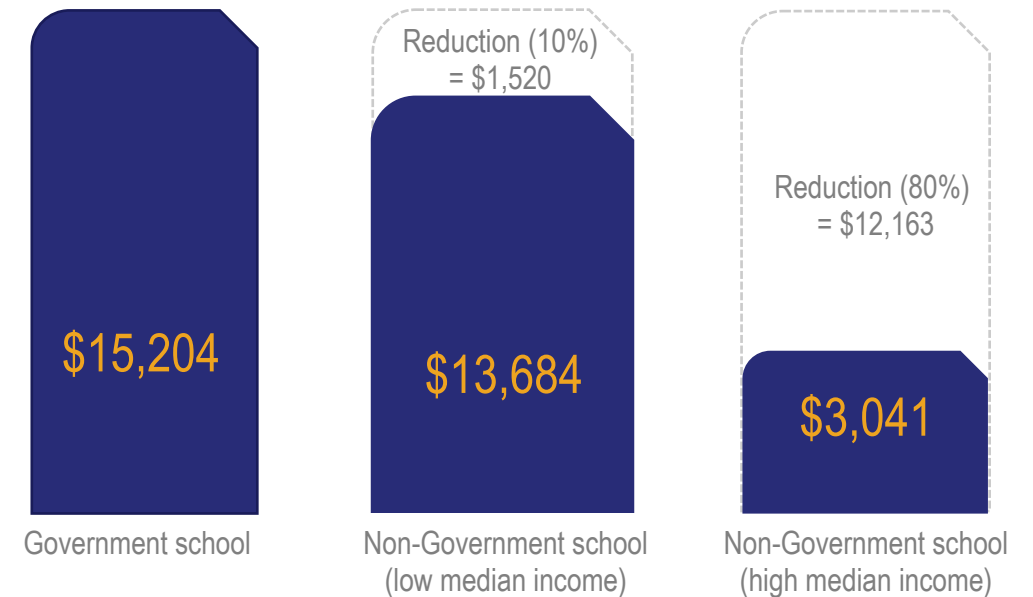
For non-government schools, per student base funding is means tested:

- These schools are required to raise between 10% and 80% of base funding privately, through fees and other private contributions.

How much a school must contribute to base funding depends on the median income of the school’s parents. This is called “Capacity to Contribute” and it only applies to non-government schools.

Because base funding is means tested, government support for non-government schools is reduced by the same amount as each school’s private capacity to contribute.

Government funding: 2021 base SRS (Secondary)



WHO RECEIVES ADDITIONAL FUNDING ?

Loadings

Additional funding called “Loadings” are added to base funding for students in priority cohorts and disadvantaged schools to address specific needs that individual students face. Loadings are not reduced by non-government school capacity to contribute, so that students in priority cohorts can attract the same loadings regardless of the schools they attend.

Four types of students and two types of schools attract loadings:

- Students with disability
- Students with low English proficiency
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students
- Students facing socio-educational disadvantage
- Small schools
- Regional and remote schools

On average, loadings comprise approximately 22% of total funding for Catholic schools, however the number and proportion of students from priority cohorts varies widely from school to school.

SCHOOLING RESOURCE STANDARD (SRS)

Base funding

In 2021: Primary student = \$12,099
and Secondary student = \$15,204

—

Capacity to contribute

% of base funding that non-government schools must raise privately, ranging from 10% to 80% depending on the median income of parents at the school. Parents at government schools are not required to contribute to base funding.

+

Loadings

Additional funding for 6 types of students in priority cohorts or school disadvantage. Loadings are not reduced for students in non-government schools.

=

Schooling Resource Standard

Per student funding is calculated on the unique characteristics of each school, its parents and its students.

TRANSITION

- Every school in Australia is moving to the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS).
- However, some schools are currently funded above the SRS for historic reasons, and some are funded below the SRS.
- Governments have agreed that a transition period should be allowed to enable schools to adjust to lower/higher SRS funding.
- In 2020 all schools began transition to the new funding model with full alignment to SRS funding expected by 2029.

Capital Funding



WHO PAYS FOR ADDITIONAL FACILITIES?

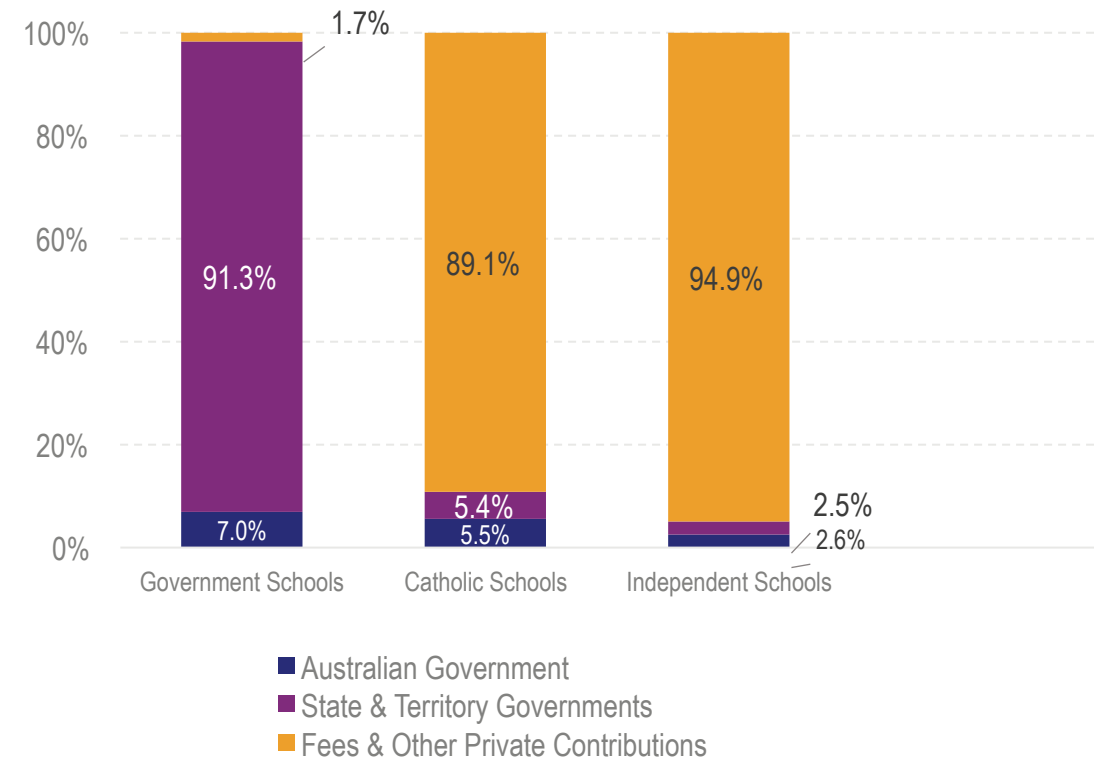
Capital Funding

In addition to the \$68 billion cost of educating students (called recurrent funding), schools incur additional costs for classrooms, libraries, sports facilities, maintenance and other capital projects (called capital funding).

In 2019, Australian schools spent \$7.6 billion on capital projects.

- Catholic and independent school parents and communities must raise the costs of capital projects privately, although disadvantaged schools can apply for assistance through government grants.
- In contrast, government school capital costs are mainly funded by state and territory governments with a small contribution from parents.

Sources of Capital Funding, 2019



Data source: ACARA, My School, Financial Data, 2019
Note: Sum of proportions may not add to 100% due to rounding

Sources of capital funding, 2019

\$ Billions	Australian Government	State & Territory Governments	Parents & School Communities	Total
Catholic Schools	0.10	0.10	1.59	1.78
Independent Schools	0.06	0.06	2.10	2.21
Government Schools	0.25	3.30	0.06	3.61
All Schools	0.41	3.45	3.75	7.61

Note: Sum of parts may not equal totals due to rounding



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