



**National Catholic Education Commission**

**Catholic School Enrolment  
Trends  
2005**

**Report from the  
NCEC Working Group on Catholic Schools Data**

**With Diocesan Supplement**

**June 2006**

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## Catholic School Enrolment Trends

2005

### Background

*Catholic School Enrolment Trends 2005* is the fourth annual report on enrolment trends and policy issues in Catholic schools from the NCEC Working Group on Catholic School Data to the National Catholic Education Commission. As with last year's report, this report provides a 'snapshot' of enrolment trends in Catholic schools in 2005, and provides change in enrolments since 1985.

In July 2000, NCEC agreed to establish a Working Group to identify, collect and analyse a range of data from 1985 to 2000 relevant to Catholic school enrolments, in response to concerns expressed by members of the National Catholic Education Commission about the perceived changing pattern of enrolments of Catholic school-age children; in particular, that fewer students from Catholic families were now enrolling in Catholic schools, while Catholic schools are enrolling more and more non-Catholic students.

The Working Group was established to explore these issues on a national basis with a view to determining the current trends in enrolment patterns, and to identify any policy implications for Catholic educators and the Catholic community more generally. The Working Group was required to produce a report setting out the requested data in graphical/tabular form and provide analysis of issues and decisions underlying the varying trends in the data. From this basis, the Working Group produced *Catholic School Enrolment Trends, 1985-2010*, which examined enrolment trends for Catholic schools; as well as student-specific trends in Catholic schools relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) students, Students with a Disability (SWD), English as a Second Language (ESL) students, Full-Fee Paying Overseas Students (FFPOS) and non-Catholic students in Catholic schools. The Working Group further examined policy issues in the first report relating to Catholic schools and considered the policy questions: What schools do children of Catholic families attend?; Who attends Catholic schools in terms of religion?; Who attends Catholic schools in terms of family income?; and What schools do Catholic school-age children attend in terms of income?

*Catholic School Enrolment Trends 2003* built on the 2001 report and examined trends from 2000 to 2003, in the context of the first report, for each of the trends and policy issues explored in the 2001 Report (other than for ESL which is no longer collected nationally). *Catholic School Enrolment Trends 2003* provided an update of the policy issues, incorporating new data from the 2001 ABS Census. In addition to the policy questions raised in the first report, the Working Group examined new issues in this report relating to single-parent families in Catholic schools, large families in Catholic schools and whether Indigenous students are under-represented in Catholic schools. With significant change to Commonwealth funding for non-government schools in February 2004, and subsequent national discussion, the Working Group also examined Catholic schools in relation to Socio-Economic Status (SES) Index scores.

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*Catholic School Enrolment Trends 2004* was the third national report to NCEC on enrolment trends from the NCEC Working Group on Catholic School Data, and was a departure from the first two reports, in that this report was limited to the reporting of enrolment trends in Catholic schools, while policy issues – which were an integral aspect of the first two reports – are reported to NCEC in separate research papers to NCEC. *Catholic School Enrolment Trends 2005* provides an update from the 2004 report for enrolments and trends in Australian Catholic Schools.

Developing research reports separate from annual enrolment trends reports enables the Working Group to provide NCEC with a greater depth of research of policy related topics relating to enrolment trends in Catholic education. The strategy of providing separate research papers will enable the possibility of providing greater understanding and analysis for states and dioceses than the annual report permitted. The first separate research report from the Working Group was *Indigenous Student Trends in Catholic Schools, 1985-2004* (June 2005). Research topics for 2006 will be:

1. Catholic and Non-Catholic Students in Australian Catholic Schools  
To be presented at NCEC April 2006 Commission meeting.
2. Catholic and Non-Catholic Staff in Australian Catholic Schools  
To be presented at NCEC June 2006 Commission meeting.
3. The Sectoral Context of Catholic School Trends  
To be presented at NCEC November 2006 Commission meeting.

In preparing the first report on Catholic school enrolment trends, the Working Group recommended the development of a permanent database for research relating to Catholic school trends beyond the first report. NCEC supported the development of the permanent electronic database, and the Australian Catholic Education Statistics (ACES) database was officially launched by NCEC on 10 September 2003.

The Australian Catholic Education Statistics (ACES) database has enabled the analysis for this report, and other questions relating to Catholic education, to be examined in the national context and for trends in state/territory commissions to be placed in a context beyond their dominion.

ACES is available to all states and territories, and is being utilised by states to investigate local trends and policy questions, including those examined in this report. Importantly, electoral information has already been effectively utilised during several recent elections; and when state commissions, dioceses and schools (both Catholic and other non-government) have been lobbying political parties and federal and state Members of Parliament.

Membership of the Working Group on Catholic School Data is drawn from each state Commission. The membership is:

Brian Croke	Chair	Vin Thomas	South Australia
Joan Warhurst	NCEC	Geoff Hendricks	Western Australia
Bill Walsh	NSW	Neville Behrens	Tasmania
Jeff Gunn	Victoria	Richard Keys	Northern Territory
Vic Lorenz	Queensland	Michael Haigh	ACT

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Administrative and technical support for the Working Group, and the development and maintenance of the ACES database is provided by Crichton Smith (NSW), John McKinnon (Vic) and Brendon Gardner (NCEC).

As with previous reports, it is the view of the Working Group that this report does not represent a definitive and conclusive analysis of trends in Catholic schools. Instead, this report is best viewed as work in progress, as it provides a summary snapshot of Catholic school enrolment trends and policy issues at the present time. Consequently, the issues investigated here continue to form part of a program of ongoing analysis and discussion, as will the research papers to be presented throughout 2006 and beyond. Hopefully, this report, and the research papers point the way to new directions and more meaningful analyses of data to enhance policy and planning for Australia's Catholic schools.

## Key Trends

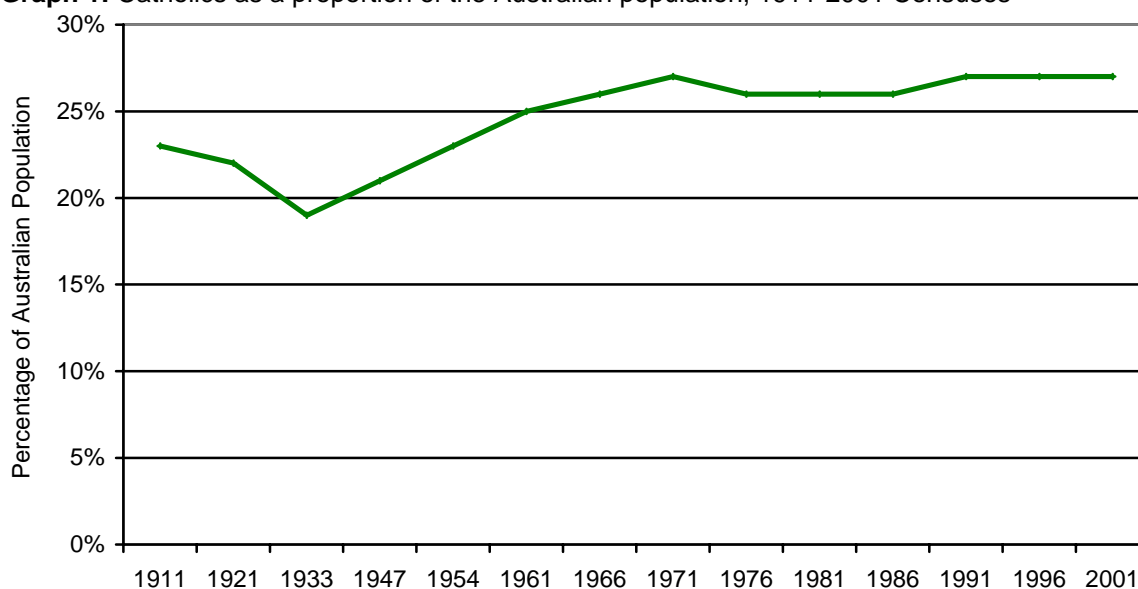
The main trends arising from this report are:

- There were 677,659 students in Australian Catholic schools in 2005. This is an increase of more than 100,000 students since 1985.
- Enrolments in Catholic schools increased by 7,391 students in 2005, which was largest increase since 1997 and the third largest annual increase in the last two decades.
- There was an increase of 2,700 students in primary Catholic schools, but 84% was due to the increase in enrolments in Queensland. Excluding Queensland's enrolments, the net increase in primary enrolments was just 443 primary students nationally.
- Victoria had the largest decrease in primary enrolments, and the largest increase in secondary enrolments from 2004 to 2005.
- Retention from Catholic primary schools to Catholic secondary schools increased for the second year, and was 116.7% in 2005.
- Retention from Year 10 to Year 12 increased for females, but decreased for males. However, the male retention rates in SA, WA and NT all increased from 2004.
- There were 11,554 Indigenous students in Catholic schools in 2005, which was an increase of 578 students from the previous year. This increase occurred in every state, but decreased in the two territories.
- There were 18,458 SWD students in Catholic schools, which was an increase of 1,400 students from the previous year. This increase was in every state and territory other than the ACT, with Victoria having the largest increase (as it had the previous year).
- FFPOS enrolments decreased in all states and territories except Victoria and NT. Primary enrolments now comprise 12% of all FFPOS enrolments in Australian Catholic schools.
- 86% of Catholic schools in Australia had no FFPOS students enrolled in 2005. One-third of schools with FFPOS students had only 1 student enrolled, while nearly 60% of schools with FFPOS had only 1, 2 or 3 students.

## Catholics and Catholic Schools – A National Context

This report begins by placing the Catholic education effort in the context of the Catholic community itself. **Graph 1** demonstrates that historically, Catholics have always formed a significant proportion of the Australian population. In 1871 Catholics were 23% of all the inhabitants of the Australian colonies, and were still 23% when the first Australian Census was held in 1911. That proportion declined during the 1920s and early 1930s before rising again. With natural growth and a disproportionate increase during the years of high migration from 1946 to 1966 the Catholic proportion of the population only increased further. More recent patterns of migration have maintained the Catholic proportion of the population.

**Graph 1:** Catholics as a proportion of the Australian population, 1911-2001 Censuses



At the latest ABS Census for which information is available (2001), just over five million Australians identified themselves as Catholic. This constituted 27% of all Australians and 39% of all Christians (**Table 1**).

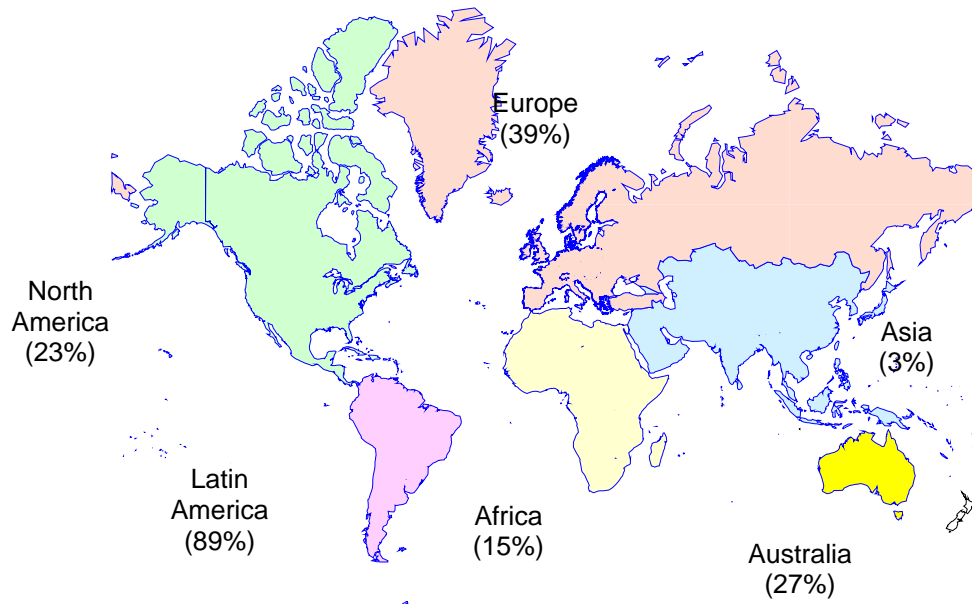
**Table 1:** Catholics as a proportion of the Christian and Australian population, 1986-2001

Census	Catholic Population	Catholics as % of Christian Population	Catholics as % of Australian Population
1986	4,052,827	35.7%	26.1%
1991	4,591,622	37.0%	27.4%
1996	4,798,530	38.1%	27.0%
2001	5,001,624	39.2%	26.7%



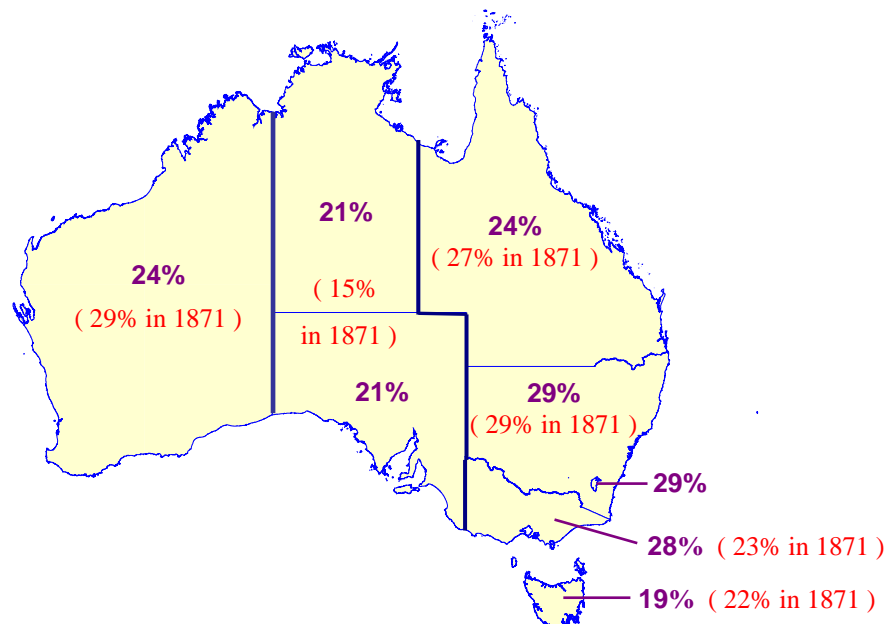
At twenty-seven percent, Australia remains a region with a high proportion of Catholics (**Map 1**) compared to North America, Africa and Asia (data in *Religious Population of the World 1998*, available at <http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0001484.html>), although the Australian Catholic community constitutes only a tiny fraction of the world's Catholics.

**Map 1:** Catholics of the world, as a proportion of their region's population, 1998



There are considerable variations in the Catholic proportion of the Australian population across states and territories (**Map 2**) reflecting the different historical circumstances of these states and territories. The highest proportion of Catholics at the 2001 Census was in the ACT (29%) and the lowest was in Tasmania (19%). In some states (e.g. NSW) the Catholic proportion of the population has hardly changed in 120 years, in others it has declined (Victoria, Tasmania, WA) and in others increased (SA/NT, Queensland).

**Map 2:** Catholics as a proportion of the Australian population, States and Territories, 2001 (and 1871)



In the most recent population censuses, the number of people identifying as Catholic has increased, but Catholics as a proportion of the Australian population has reduced marginally in most states and territories.

**Table 2:** Catholics as a proportion of the Australian population, by States and Territories, 1991-2001

Census	1991	1996	2001
NSW	29.6%	29.3%	28.9%
Victoria	29.2%	28.9%	28.4%
Queensland	25.5%	25.2%	24.8%
South Australia	21.0%	20.8%	20.8%
Western Australia	25.8%	25.0%	24.7%
Tasmania	19.8%	19.4%	19.3%
Northern Territory	23.0%	22.5%	22.2%
ACT	31.2%	29.8%	29.1%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>27.4%</b>	<b>27.0%</b>	<b>26.7%</b>

Unlike most other faith communities in Australia, the Catholic community has always sought to provide a Catholic education for its children. Since George Morley opened the first Catholic school at Parramatta in 1820, each new Catholic community, in both city and country, has striven to first provide what other Catholic communities already had and valued – a school. With the cessation of government financial aid in the 1870s/1880s the influx of religious men and women ensured that Catholic schools continued to survive and that new ones were founded.

The Catholic school is an integral part of Australian Catholic culture and its constructive contribution to the building of the Australian nation is incalculable. At the same time, the Catholic school has been central to the creation of Catholic identity in Australia and has created its own popular mythology. Part of the mythology is that there was a time when all Catholic children attended Catholic schools. However, this was never the case. In 1933, for instance, the proportion of Catholic children attending Catholic schools was 65% (calculated from data in *Commonwealth Yearbook No.37 (1946-7)*, p.228). Currently, Catholic schools accommodate approximately half of the Catholic school-age population.

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## Catholic School Enrolment Trends

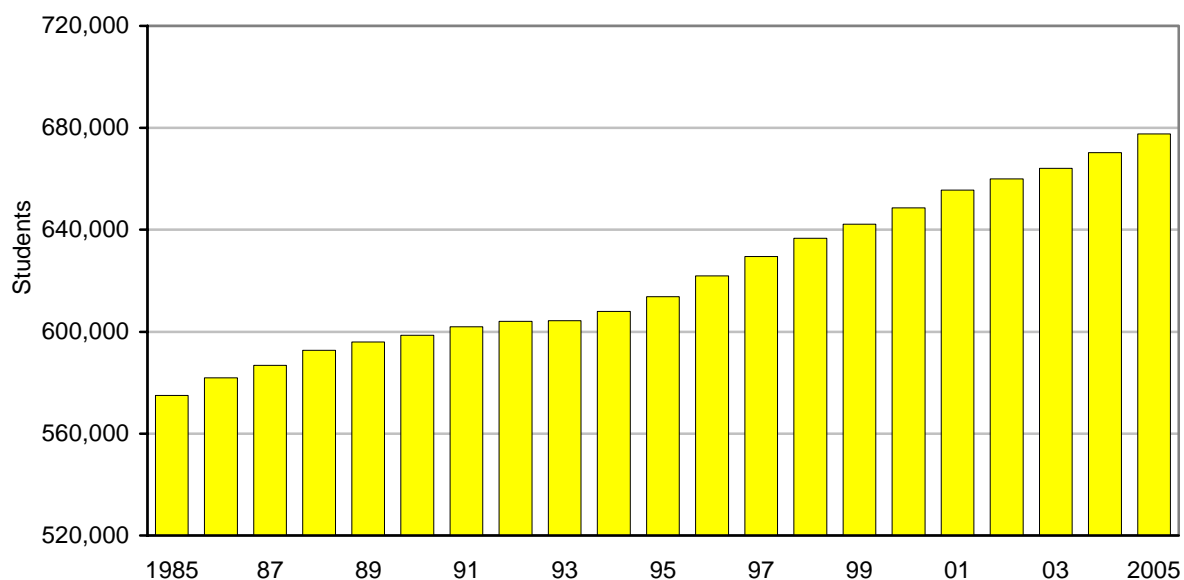
### Enrolment Trends

The number of students in Australian Catholic schools has increased every year since 1985, and between 1985 and 2005, there has been an increase by more than 100,000 students – from 575,000 to 677,700 students as shown in **Graph 2** and **Table 3**.

While the number of students enrolled in Catholic schools in Australia has increased every year since 1985, growth has not always had a consistent increase, with the increase from 1992 to 1993 being only 235 students, while the increase in 1996 being 8,098 students more than the previous year.

Student enrolments in Catholic schools increased by 7,391 students in 2005, which was largest increase since 1997 and the third largest annual increase in the last two decades. However, this increase should be viewed in the context of the recent introduction of the pre-year 1, or 'Prep Year' in Queensland, which is an important component for this relatively large increase.

**Graph 2:** Students in Catholic schools, Australia, 1985-2005



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**Table 3:** Student enrolments and annual change in Catholic schools, Australia, 1985-2004

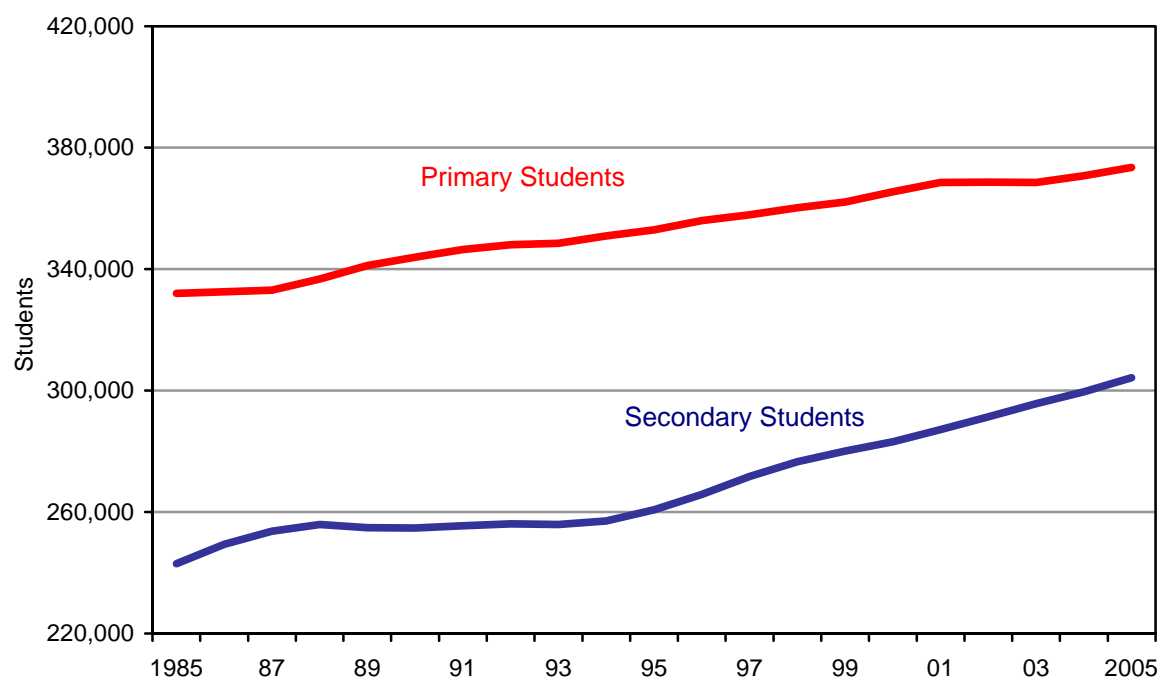
Year	Students in Catholic Schools	Change from previous year	
		(Number)	(% Change)
1985	575,005	—	—
1986	581,846	6,841	1.2%
1987	586,757	4,911	0.8%
1988	592,640	5,883	1.0%
1989	595,936	3,296	0.6%
1990	598,586	2,650	0.4%
1991	601,917	3,331	0.6%
1992	604,119	2,202	0.4%
1993	604,354	235	0.0%
1994	608,022	3,668	0.6%
1995	613,722	5,700	0.9%
1996	621,820	8,098	1.3%
1997	629,579	7,759	1.2%
1998	636,727	7,148	1.1%
1999	642,218	5,491	0.9%
2000	648,578	6,360	1.0%
2001	655,636	7,058	1.1%
2002	660,024	4,388	0.7%
2003	664,124	4,100	0.6%
2004	670,268	6,144	0.9%
2005	677,659	7,391	1.1%

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## Primary and Secondary Enrolment Trends

Of particular interest are the varying patterns of growth across both primary and secondary schools. While the growth for both primary and for secondary have been broadly comparable at a national level (**Graph 3**), there are significant differences between states.

**Graph 3:** Students in Catholic schools, Primary and Secondary, Australia, 1985-2005



The 2001 *Report of the Working Party on Catholic School Enrolments* identified growth in primary school enrolments in every state and territory (other than the ACT) from 1985 to 2000, while *Enrolment Trends 2003* identified that primary enrolments declined from 2000 to 2003 in Victoria, Western Australia, Northern Territory and Tasmania, and *Enrolment Trends 2004* confirmed that primary enrolments continued to decline in these states and territories.

The reports identified that for secondary enrolments, every state and territory in Australia had an increase in secondary student enrolments from 1985 to 2004, with the exception of Northern Territory in 2004, which had a minor decline of 8 students.

As **Table 4** and **Graph 4** shows, Catholic primary school enrolments have continued to decline in Victoria and Northern Territory, and the ACT has also experienced a decline in primary school enrolments. Enrolments in Western Australia and Tasmania – which had previously had declining primary enrolments – have both increased enrolments in 2005.

**Table 4** and **Graph 5** shows that enrolments in Catholic secondary schools continued the trend in 2004 and previous years, with all states and territories, other than Northern Territory, having an increase in secondary enrolments from 2004 to 2005; and that the decline in secondary enrolments in Northern Territory remained a minimal decrease of 11 students.

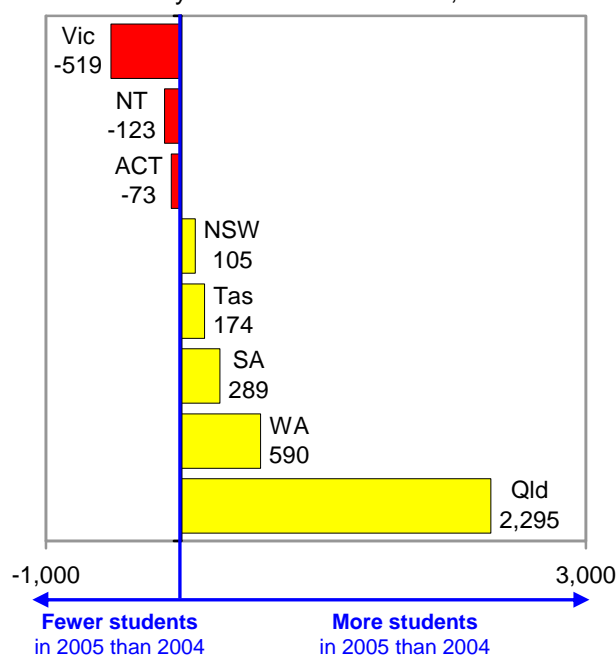
While there was an increase of 2,700 students in primary Catholic schools from 2004 to 2005, nearly 2,300 of this increase (84%) was due to the increase in enrolments in Queensland; and as reported in *Enrolment Trends 2003*, this significant increase in Catholic primary school enrolments is likely to be the result of the recent introduction of pre-year 1, or 'Prep Year' in Queensland. Excluding the primary enrolments in Queensland, the net increase in primary enrolments from 2004 to 2005 was just 443 primary students nationally.

This small increase was due, in part to the decrease from 2004 to 2005 of 519 primary students in Victoria (**Table 4** and **Graph 4**). However, this decline in primary enrolments was smaller than the previous year (from 2003 to 2004) when Victoria had a larger decline of 769 primary students. As **Table 4** and **Graph 5** show, Victoria had the largest increase in secondary enrolments from 2004 to 2005.

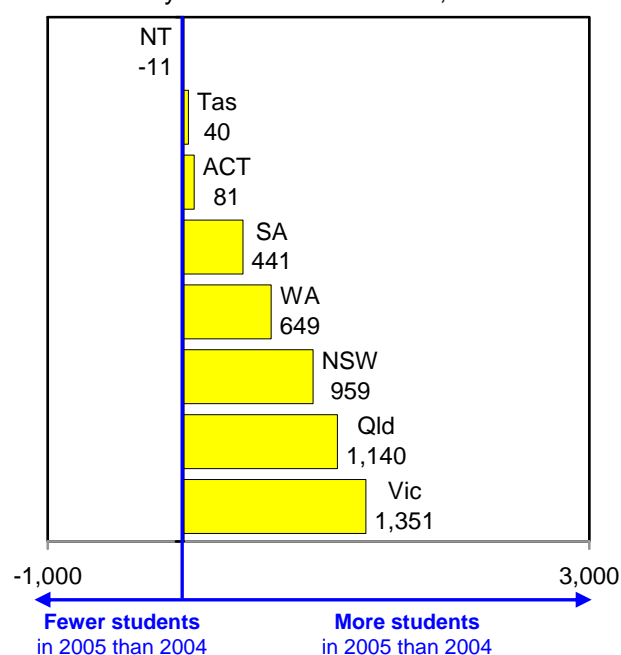
**Table 4:** Changes in Catholic school enrolments, by States and Territories, 2004-2005

	Primary		Secondary		All Students	
	2005	Change from 2004	2005	Change from 2004	2005	Change from 2004
NSW	125,486	105	113,787	959	239,273	1,064
Victoria	98,393	-519	82,283	1,351	180,676	832
Queensland	67,361	2,295	47,269	1,140	114,630	3,435
South Australia	27,869	289	18,090	441	45,959	730
Western Australia	35,745	590	26,431	649	62,176	1,239
Tasmania	6,971	174	6,291	40	13,262	214
Northern Territory	3,000	-123	1,482	-11	4,482	-134
ACT	8,649	-73	8,551	81	17,200	8
<b>Australia</b>	<b>373,474</b>	<b>2,738</b>	<b>304,184</b>	<b>4,650</b>	<b>677,658</b>	<b>7,388</b>

**Graph 4:** Change in Catholic Primary enrolments, by States and Territories, 2004-2005



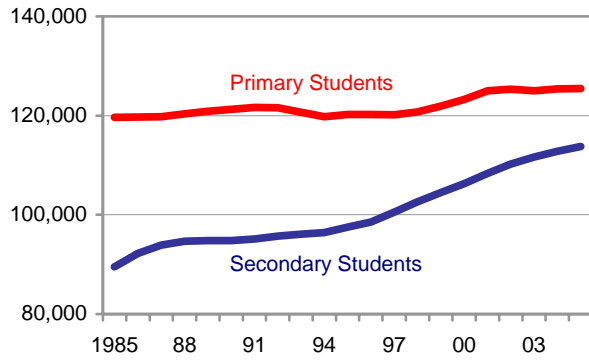
**Graph 5:** Change in Catholic Secondary enrolments, by States and Territories, 2004-2005



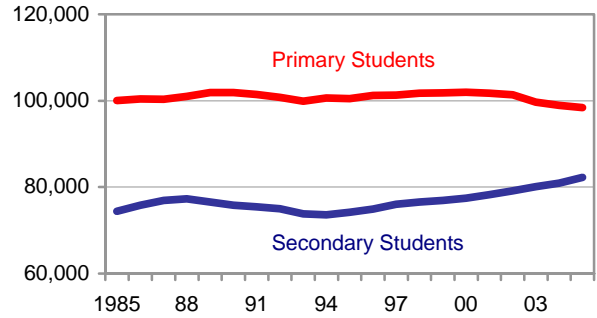
**Graphs 6 to 13** report the primary and secondary enrolments for each state and territory from 1985 to 2005. Note that the graphs are on different scales.

**Graphs 6 to 13:** Primary and Secondary Enrolments in Catholic schools, individual States and Territories, 1985-2005

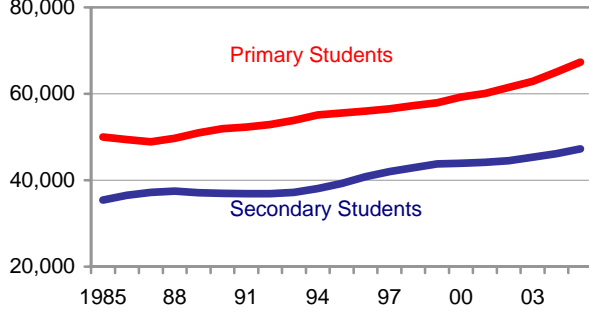
**Graph 6:** New South Wales



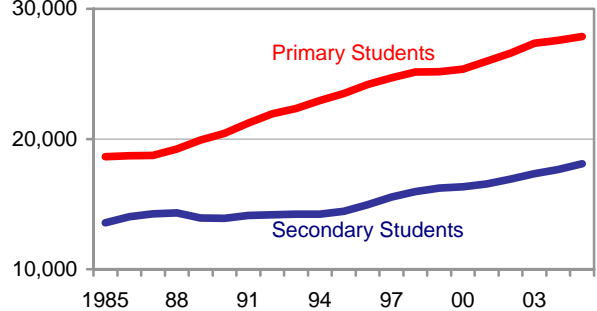
**Graph 7:** Victoria



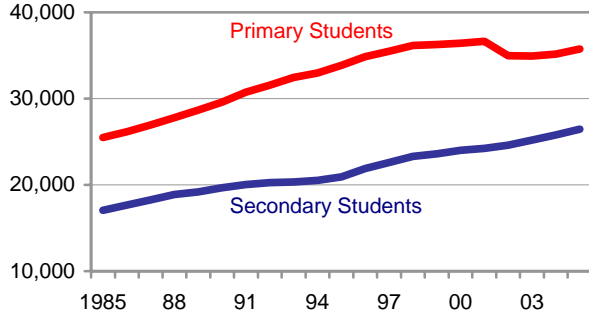
**Graph 8:** Queensland



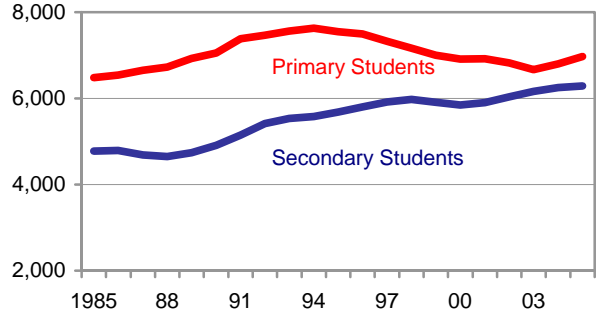
**Graph 9:** South Australia



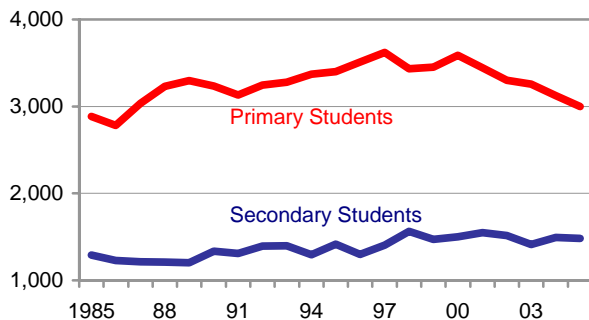
**Graph 10:** Western Australia



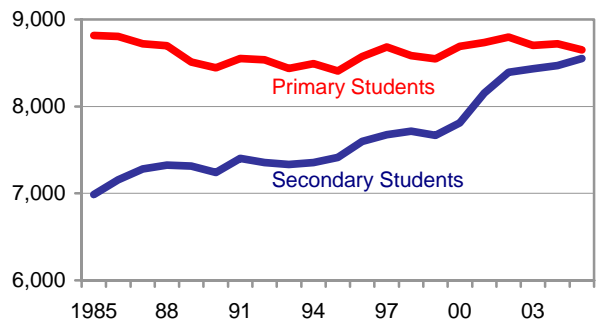
**Graph 11:** Tasmania



**Graph 12:** Northern Territory



**Graph 13:** Australian Capital Territory

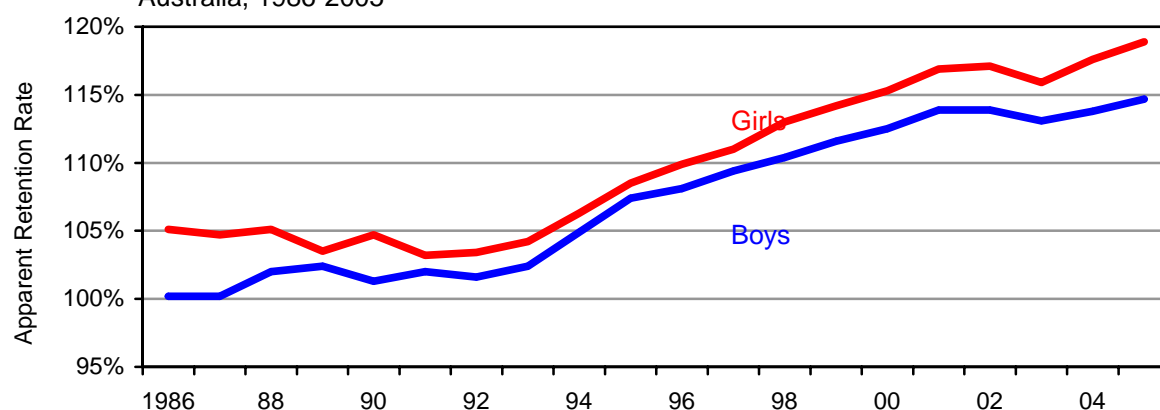


## Student Retention

Part of the growth in secondary schools has been created by students increasingly tending to stay in Catholic schools once they commence. Retention rates in excess of 100% from Catholic primary to Catholic secondary means in effect that there are more students in the first year of Catholic secondary schools than there were in the last year of Catholic primary school the previous year. Clearly, many students from other schools commence their Catholic education in secondary school. Anecdotal evidence suggests that a considerable number of these are Catholic students for whom the local government primary school was more convenient than the Catholic school. It also suggests that many parents seek to confine their fee-paying commitment to the secondary school years only.

The Apparent Retention Rate for students from primary to secondary increased annually until 2001 but reduced slightly in 2002 and 2003 (**Graph 7**). However, there has been an increase nationally in the last two years, with the retention of boys increasing slightly from 113.8% to 114.7% from 2004 to 2005, and girls increasing from 117.6% to 118.9% from 2004 to 2005 (**Table 5**). Retention for both boys and girls increased in every state and territory other than for boys in NT and girls in SA. However, as **Table 5** highlights, retention was greater than 100% (other than NT boys). As such, there were more students in Catholic secondary schools in 2005 than had been in Catholic primary schools in 2004.

**Graph 14:** Apparent Retention Rates for Catholic Primary to Catholic Secondary schools, Australia, 1986-2005



**Table 5:** Apparent Retention Rates, Catholic Primary to Catholic Secondary schools, Australia and States and Territories, 2005

	Boys	Girls	All Students
NSW	119.9	115.8	117.9
Victoria	101.8	113.2	107.4
Queensland	117.1	126.5	121.6
South Australia	109.1	121.2	114.9
Western Australia	128.8	126.2	127.5
Tasmania	122.5	117.6	120.0
Northern Territory	87.4	113.5	99.8
ACT	121.1	138.0	129.0
<b>Australia</b>	<b>114.7</b>	<b>118.9</b>	<b>116.7</b>

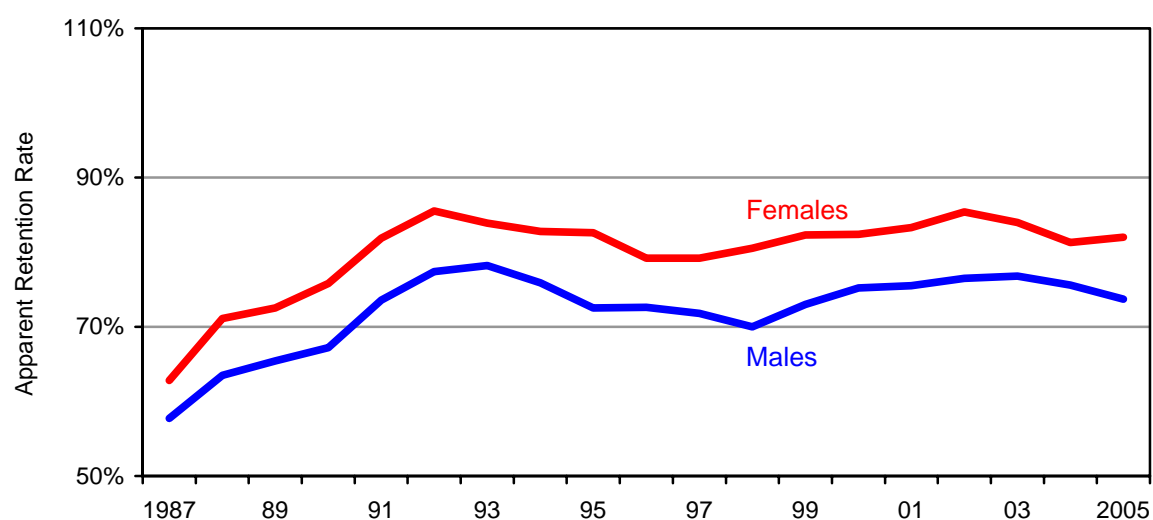
**Note:** NSW, ACT, Vic and Tas retention are from Grade 6 to Grade 7. SA, NT, Qld and WA are from Grade 7 to 8.



A contributing factor to the increase in enrolments in Catholic secondary schools has been the improvement in the secondary Apparent Retention Rate in the 1980s and early 1990s, although that is now fairly stable in all states. Further, there has always been a difference in Apparent Retention Rates between boys and girls in all school sectors and that is no less evident in Catholic schools, and the Apparent Retention Rate for girls remains consistently higher than for boys.

The Apparent Retention Rate for post-compulsory education (students in Catholic schools staying from Year 10 to complete year 12) increased from 1987, to the highest level in 1992 for females (85.5%), and 1993 for males (78.2%). Retention rates increased again between 1992 and 1998, but the last few years have witnessed a slight decline in post-compulsory retention rates nationally (**Graph 15**). In 2005, the post-compulsory retention rate for females was 82.0%, and for males was 73.7% (**Table 6**). While post-compulsory retention rates continued to decrease nationally for males, the male retention rates in South Australia, Western Australia and Northern Territory all increased from 2004. For females, retention increased in every state and territory, other than SA, which had a slight decrease from 78.5% in 2004.

**Graph 15:** Apparent Retention Rates for post-compulsory schooling (Year 10 to Year 12) in Catholic Secondary schools, Australia, 1987-2005



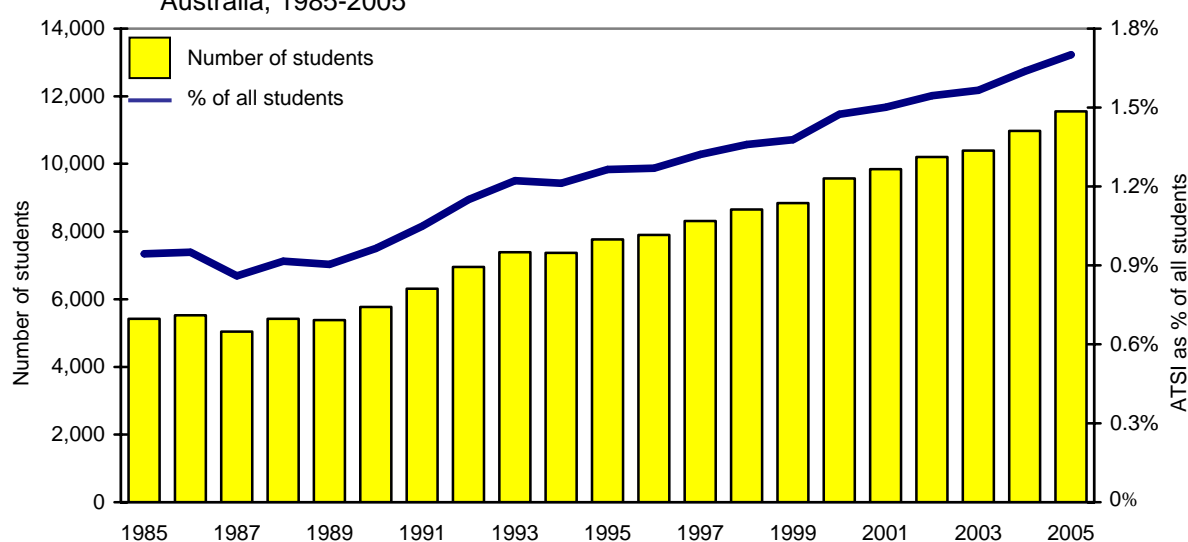
**Table 6:** Apparent Retention Rates for post-compulsory schooling (Year 10 to Year 12) in Catholic secondary schools, States and Territories, 2005

	Males	Females	All Students
NSW	70.1	80.1	75.1
Victoria	76.0	87.1	81.6
Queensland	82.4	86.8	84.6
South Australia	74.2	78.2	76.3
Western Australia	71.7	76.3	74.0
Tasmania	53.8	67.7	60.6
Northern Territory	37.9	55.7	46.7
ACT	71.6	79.0	75.2
<b>Australia</b>	<b>73.7</b>	<b>82.0</b>	<b>77.8</b>

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students

It is important to recognize the increased openness of Catholic schools to Indigenous students in recent years. The number and proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) students has increased significantly over the period 1985-2005 (**Graph 16** and **Table 7**), and in all states and territories (**Table 8**). This national increase is likely to be maintained for the foreseeable future, especially given the increased levels of financial and other support now available for Indigenous students. One of the key factors has been the significant increase in the level of Commonwealth Government support mainly through the Indigenous Education Strategic Initiatives Programme. Apart from the Commonwealth program, many dioceses began to develop more systematic enrolment and support policies in response to the Statement by Pope John Paul II to the Indigenous community at Alice Springs in 1985. In 2005, there were 11,554 Indigenous students in Catholic schools, which was an increase of 578 students from the previous year.

**Graph 16:** Number and percentage of students identified as ATSI in Catholic schools, Australia, 1985-2005



**Table 7:** Number and percentage of students identified as ATSI in Catholic schools, Australia, 1985-2005

Year	ATSI Students	ATSI as % of all students
1985	5,423	0.9%
1986	5,523	0.9%
1987	5,045	0.9%
1988	5,425	0.9%
1989	5,384	0.9%
1990	5,769	1.0%
1991	6,313	1.0%
1992	6,951	1.2%
1993	7,385	1.2%
1994	7,369	1.2%
1995	7,763	1.3%

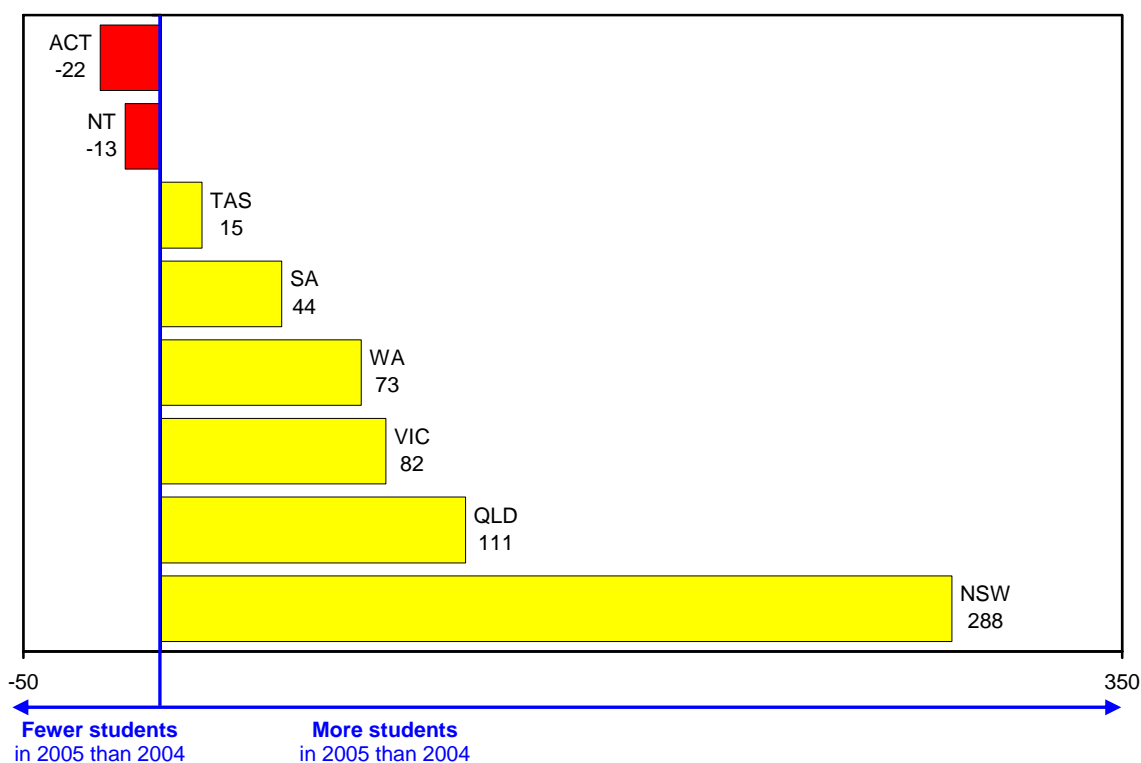
Year	ATSI Students	ATSI as % of all students
1996	7,895	1.3%
1997	8,316	1.3%
1998	8,655	1.4%
1999	8,845	1.4%
2000	9,566	1.5%
2001	9,843	1.5%
2002	10,199	1.5%
2003	10,394	1.6%
2004	10,976	1.6%
2005	11,554	1.7%

**Table 8:** Number and percentage of students identified as ATSI in Catholic schools, States and Territories, 1985 and 2005

	1985		2005		Change from 1985 to 2005	Proportion of ATSI students in each State
	Number of Students	% of Students	Number of Students	% of Students		
NSW	1,029	0.5%	3,328	1.4%	2,299	29%
Victoria	93	0.1%	566	0.3%	473	5%
Queensland	1,400	1.6%	3,073	2.7%	1,673	27%
SA	83	0.3%	411	0.9%	328	4%
WA	1,617	3.8%	2,241	3.6%	624	19%
Tasmania	131	1.2%	477	3.6%	346	4%
NT	1,060	25.4%	1,297	28.9%	237	11%
ACT	10	0.1%	161	0.9%	151	1%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>5,423</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>11,554</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>6,131</b>	<b>100%</b>

From 2004 to 2005, the number of Indigenous students in Catholic schools increased in every state, but decreased in the two territories (**Graph 17**). The decrease in Indigenous students in the ACT was in Catholic primary schools as Indigenous secondary enrolments increased by 2 students. While the number of Indigenous students in the Northern Territory also decreased, the Northern Territory still has the significantly highest proportion of Indigenous students in Catholic schools, with more than one-quarter of students in Catholic schools in the Northern Territory identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

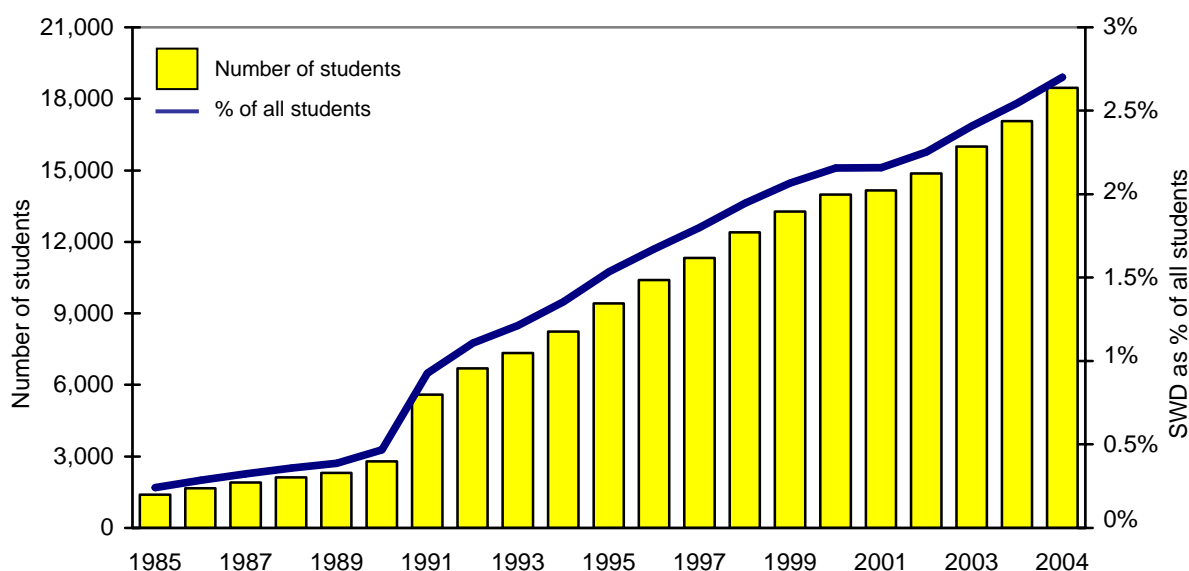
**Graph 17:** Recent change in ATSI student enrolments in Catholic schools, States and Territories, 2004-2005



## Students with a Disability

The fastest growing category of students in Catholic schools from 1985 to 2005 has been those with a disability (**Graph 18**), and this has occurred in every state and territory (**Table 9** and **Graph 19**). As with Indigenous students, there arose a greater awareness among Catholic educators in the early 1980s of the educational needs of Students with a Disability (SWD) and a preference for integrating them into regular schools wherever possible. This led to improved access to appropriately trained staff and better advisory services. Despite the failure of the Commonwealth to match the increase in students with comparable per capita funding increases, the trend of increased enrolment of Students with a Disability is likely to continue. The advent of the Commonwealth *Disability Discrimination Act* in 1992 is clearly reflected in the data. It has both heightened awareness and created a real pressure point for enrolment. In brief, the data illustrates that Catholic schools have responded significantly to this particular challenge. In 2005, there were 18,458 SWD students in Catholic schools, which was an increase of 1,400 students from the previous year.

**Graph 18:** Number and percentage of SWD students in Catholic schools, Australia, 1985-2005



**Table 9:** Number and percentage of SWD students in Catholic Schools, Australia, 1985-2005

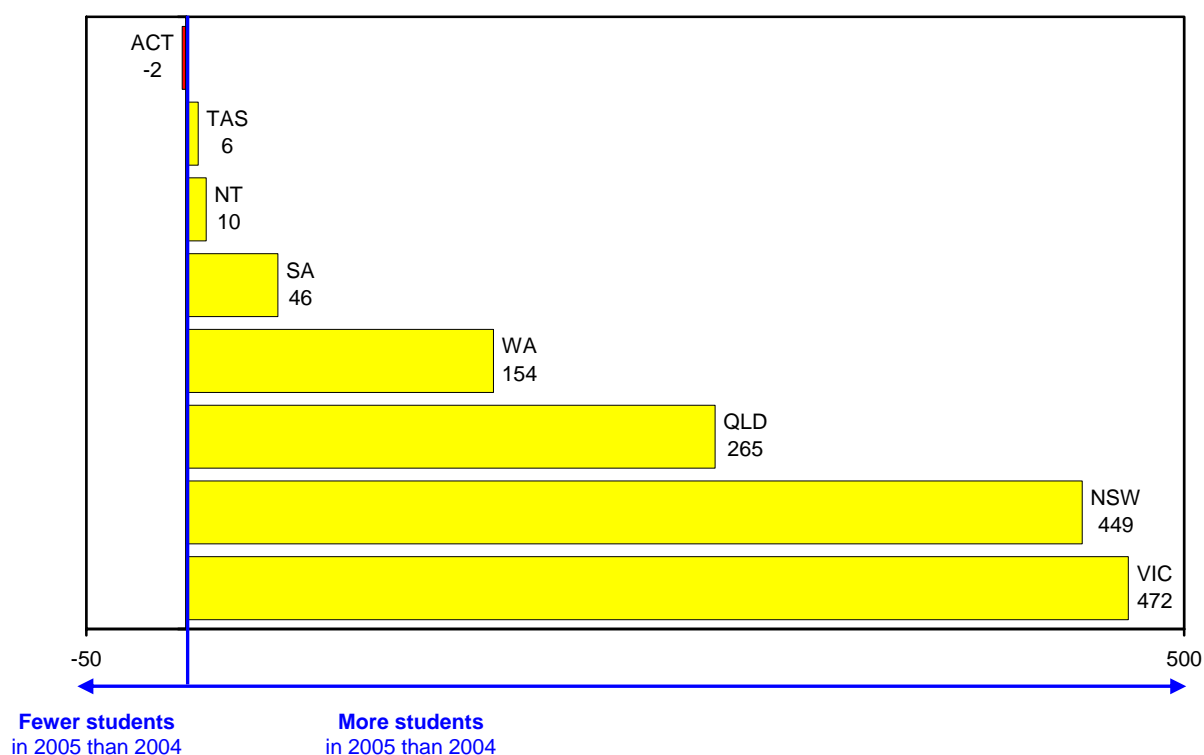
Year	SWD Students	SWD as % of all students
1985	1,391	0.2%
1986	1,666	0.3%
1987	1,908	0.3%
1988	2,126	0.4%
1989	2,316	0.4%
1990	2,800	0.5%
1991	5,585	0.9%
1992	6,687	1.1%
1993	7,336	1.2%
1994	8,242	1.4%
1995	9,425	1.5%
1996	10,394	1.7%
1997	11,329	1.8%
1998	12,396	1.9%
1999	13,271	2.1%
2000	13,992	2.2%
2001	14,156	2.2%
2002	14,873	2.3%
2003	15,999	2.4%
2004	17,058	2.5%
2005	18,458	2.7%

**Table 10:** Number and percentage of SWD students in Catholic schools, States and Territories, 1985 and 2005

	1985		2005		Change in Students	Proportion of SWD in each State
	Number of Students	% of Students	Number of Students	% of Students		
NSW	377	0.2%	8,175	3.4%	7,798	44%
Victoria	287	0.2%	4,835	2.7%	4,548	26%
Queensland	177	0.2%	2,232	1.9%	2,055	12%
SA	371	1.2%	1,375	3.0%	1,004	7%
WA	75	0.2%	1,318	2.1%	1,243	7%
Tasmania	12	0.1%	190	1.4%	178	1%
NT	Nil	—	97	2.2%	97	1%
ACT	92	0.6%	236	1.4%	144	1%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>1,391</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>18,458</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>17,067</b>	<b>100%</b>

The number of Students with a Disability in Catholic schools increased from 2004 to 2005 in every state and territory other than the ACT, with Victoria having the largest increase (as it had the previous year). In 2005, NSW continued to be the state with the largest number of SWD students, having almost half (44%) of all SWD students enrolled in Catholic schools in Australia.

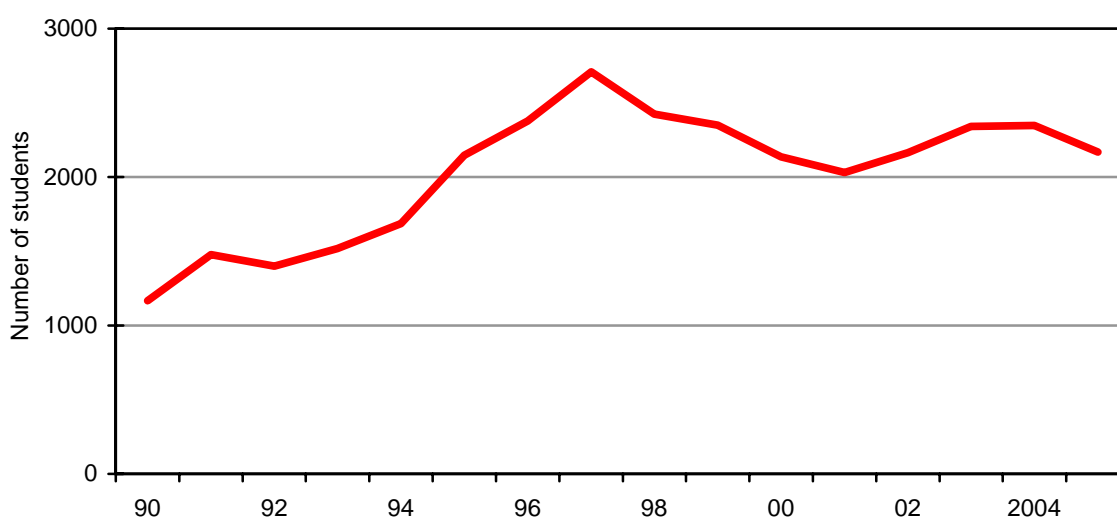
**Graph 19:** Recent change in SWD student enrolments in Catholic schools, States and Territories, 2004-2005



## Full-Fee Paying Overseas Students

Catholic schools entered the FFPOS scheme on its introduction by the Commonwealth Government in 1989. In the following years, at least until 1997, the number of FFPOS grew quickly and consistently (**Graph 20**). From 1997 to 2001 FFPOS declined in all states and territories except NSW, and this was attributable to a number of factors including the fact that Catholic schools found that there were considerable pastoral challenges involved in providing for such students. From 2001 to 2004, FFPOS enrolments increased nationally, due to the increase in FFPOS enrolments in NSW, South Australia and Victoria (**Table 11**). However, from 2004 to 2005, FFPOS enrolments have decreased in all states and territories except Victoria and Northern Territory (**Table 11**).

**Graph 20:** FFPOS in Catholic schools, Australia, 1989-2005



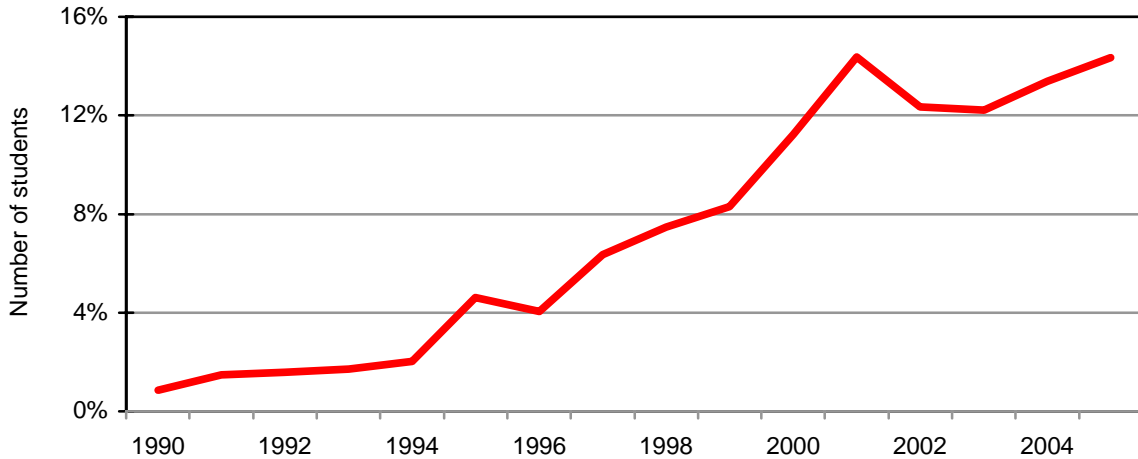
**Table 11:** FFPOS in Catholic schools, Australia and States and Territories, 1990, 2004 and 2005

	1990	2004	2005	Change 2004-2005	Proportion of FFPOS in each State
NSW	462	991	883	-108	41%
Victoria	191	254	256	2	12%
Queensland	227	410	384	-26	18%
SA	58	354	330	-24	15%
WA	215	261	231	-30	11%
Tasmania	1	5	3	-2	0%
NT	4	57	67	10	3%
ACT	9	16	15	-1	1%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>2,348</b>	<b>2,169</b>	<b>-179</b>	<b>100%</b>

## FFPOS Students in Primary Schools

In 1989, FFPOS students were almost exclusively enrolled in secondary education, but since the mid 1996 the proportion of FFPOS students in primary schools has been increasing, and primary enrolments now comprise 14% of all FFPOS enrolments in Australian Catholic schools, as highlighted in **Graph 21**.

**Graph 21:** FFPOS in Primary schools, as proportion of all FFPOS in Catholic Schools, Australia, 1990-2005

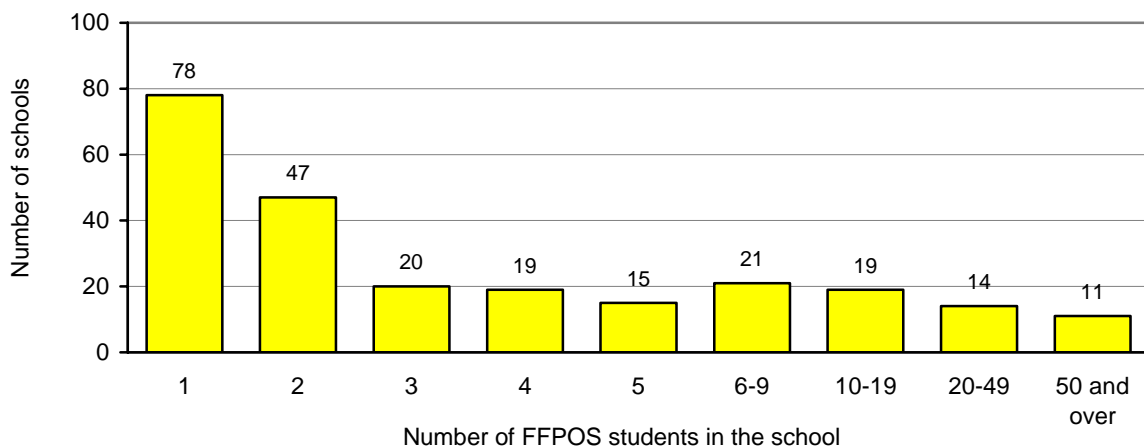


## Schools with FFPOS students

Since 1989, the number of schools with FFPOS students enrolled has increased, but from year to year, the schools with FFPOS students can change. This is because the majority of schools with FFPOS students have only 1 or 2 students (**Graph 22**), and very few Catholic schools in Australia have large numbers of FFPOS students. Of the 244 schools with FFPOS students enrolled in 2004, less than 5% (11 schools) had more than 50 FFPOS students (of which only 4 schools had 100 or more FFPOS students). 144 FFPOS students was the largest number in any Catholic school in Australia.

The more common pattern for schools with FFPOS students is for schools to have only one or two FFPOS students enrolled. As **Graph 22** highlights, one third of schools (78 schools) with FFPOS students had only 1 student enrolled, and nearly 60% of schools with FFPOS had only 1, 2 or 3 students. 86% of Catholic schools in Australia had no FFPOS students enrolled in 2005.

**Graph 22:** Number of FFPOS students by number of Catholic schools, Australia, 2005



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## Previous Reports from the Working Group

- 1. Report of the Working Party on Catholic School Enrolment Trends, 1985-2010** (September 2001)  
Includes enrolment trends in Catholic schools 1985-2000 and examined the policy issues of: What schools do children of Catholic families attend?; Who attends Catholic schools in terms of religion?; Who attends Catholic schools in terms of family income?; and What schools do Catholic school-age children attend in terms of income? (1996 ABS Census).
- 2. Catholic School Enrolment Trends, 2003** (June 2004)  
Includes enrolment trends 2000-2003, school size, and examines the policy issues in *Enrolment trends 1985-2010* (2001 ABS Census). Also explored the policy issues of: Single-parent families in Catholic schools; Large families in Catholic schools; Indigenous students (2001 ABS Census); and Catholic schools and the Socio-Economic Status Index.
- 3. Catholic School Enrolment Trends, 2004** (February 2005)  
Enrolment trends 2004 and 1985-2004.
- 4. Indigenous Student Trends in Catholic Schools 1985-2004** (June 2005)  
Examined the Australian Indigenous Population, Indigenous Enrolments in Catholic Schools (2004 Snapshot); Indigenous Student Trends in Catholic Schools, 1985-2004. Also examined the “Our Fair Share” issues of: Is the proportion of Indigenous students in Catholic schools representative of the broader Indigenous community?, What proportion of the Indigenous students are in Catholic and non-Catholic schools?, hat proportion of Catholic Indigenous students are in Catholic schools?, and How does the increase in Indigenous student enrolments compare to the increase in Students with Disabilities (the only other specific funding targeted student group) in Catholic schools? Also reported on the issues and implications of the findings of this report.



## Catholic School Enrolment Trends (Diocesan Supplement)

*Catholic School Enrolment Trends 2005* was presented to NCEC on February 16, 2006. This Supplement provides enrolment trends relevant to the individual dioceses within each state in the context of the national report.

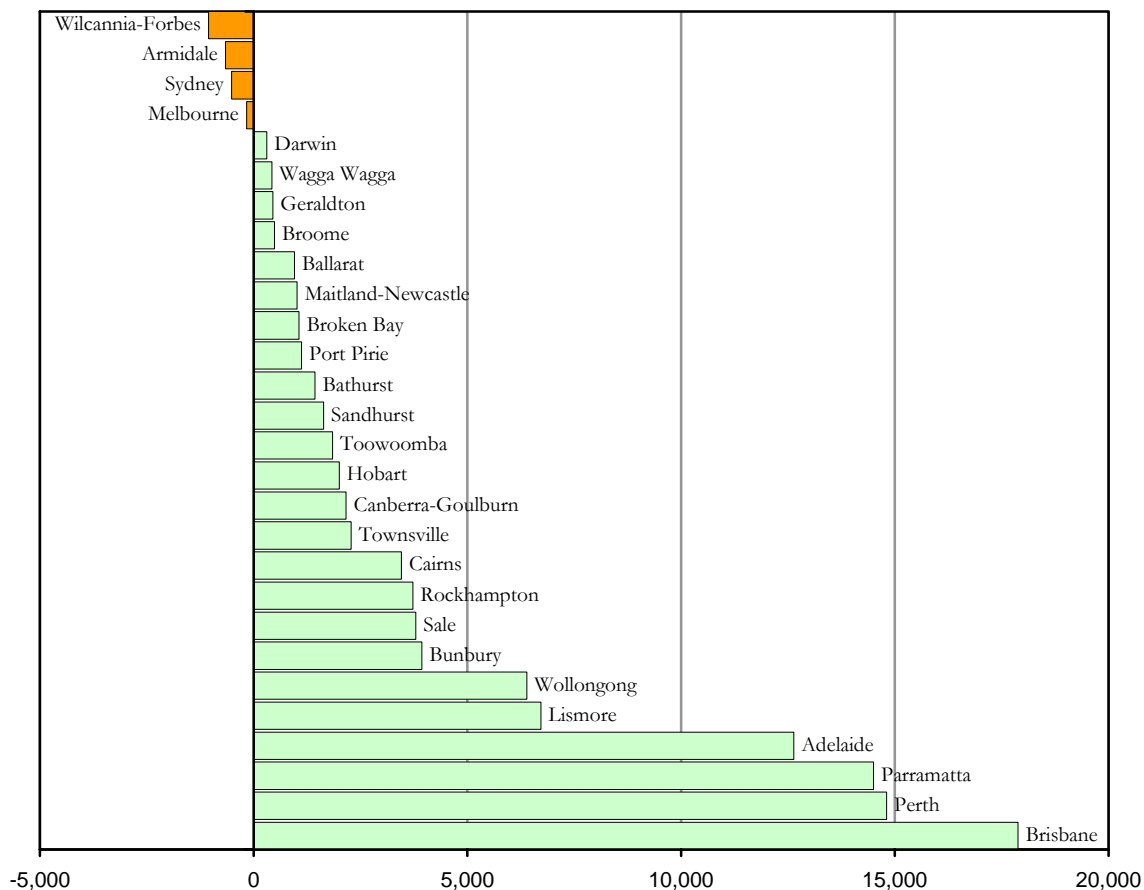
Dioceses in NSW and ACT have been combined as the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn is located in NSW and ACT. Totals for diocesan tables in this supplement may vary slightly to State totals reported earlier in this report due to rounding of FTE student totals for dioceses. Diocesan tables in this Supplement include all students enrolled in Congregational and in Systemic schools.

It is intended that the diocesan supplement will be included in the annual *Catholic School Enrolment Trends* from 2006.

### Enrolment Trends

As reported earlier, the total enrolments in Australian Catholic schools have increased by more than 100,000 students from 1985 to 2005. **Graph 23** and **Table 12** record the change in enrolments in each of the dioceses between 1988 and 2005.

**Graph 23:** Changes in Catholic school enrolments, by Diocese, 1985-2005



**Table 12:** Changes in Catholic school enrolments, by Diocese, 1985-2005

State	Diocese	1985	2005	Change
NSW and ACT	Armidale	6,557	5,895	-662
	Bathurst	8,364	9,803	1,439
	Broken Bay	21,352	22,415	1,063
	Canberra-Goulburn	22,621	24,784	2,163
	Lismore	10,877	17,597	6,720
	Maitland-Newcastle	16,170	17,190	1,020
	Parramatta	32,006	46,501	14,495
	Sydney	80,099	79,586	-513
	Wagga Wagga	8,214	8,643	429
	Wilcannia-Forbes	3,634	2,577	-1,057
Wollongong	15,090	21,484	6,394	
Victoria	Ballarat	14,717	15,677	960
	Melbourne	136,477	136,311	-166
	Sale	10,623	14,415	3,792
	Sandhurst	12,636	14,273	1,637
Queensland	Brisbane	53,878	71,763	17,885
	Cairns	5,138	8,593	3,455
	Rockhampton	9,816	13,546	3,730
	Toowoomba	8,038	9,887	1,849
	Townsville	8,559	10,842	2,283
Western Australia	Broome	1,223	1,708	485
	Bunbury	3,375	7,312	3,937
	Geraldton	2,778	3,226	448
	Perth	35,128	49,931	14,803
South Australia	Adelaide	28,791	41,423	12,632
	Port Pirie	3,416	4,536	1,120
Tasmania	Hobart	11,254	13,261	2,007
Northern Territory	Darwin	4,175	4,483	308
<b>National Total</b>		<b>575,006</b>	<b>677,662</b>	<b>102,656</b>

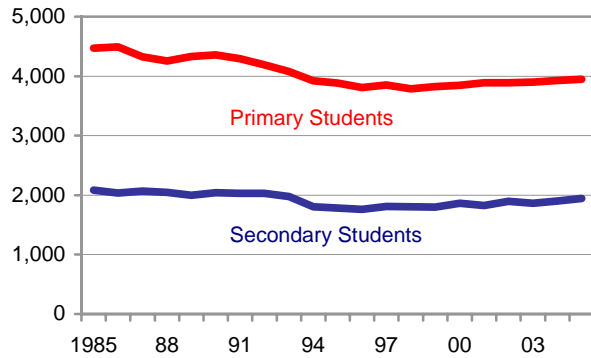
## Primary and Secondary Enrolment Trends

The following graphs (**Graph 24 to 51**) show the enrolment trends for each diocese from 1985 to 2005 for primary and secondary enrolments. Note that the graphs are on different scales.

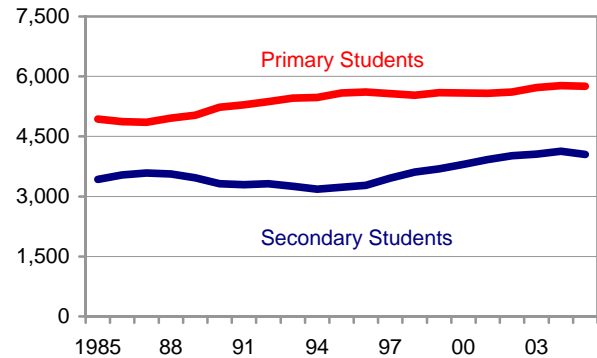
**Graphs 24 to 51:** Primary and Secondary Enrolments in Catholic schools, Individual Dioceses, 1985-2005

### New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory

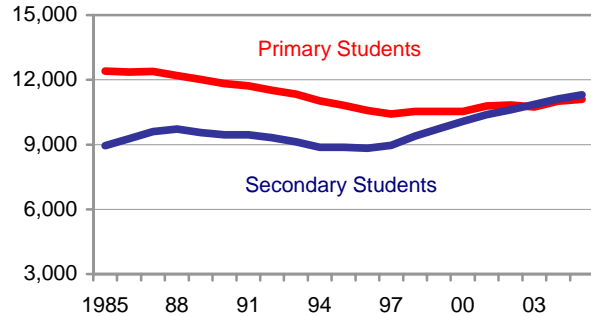
**Graph 24:** Armidale



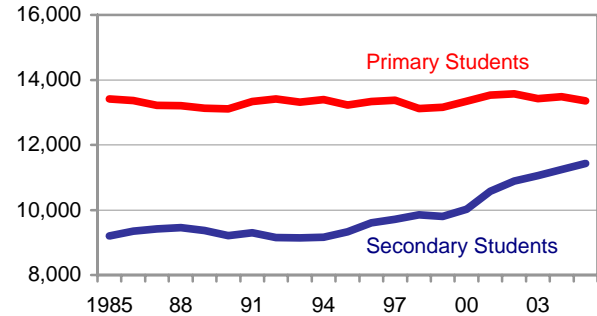
**Graph 25:** Bathurst



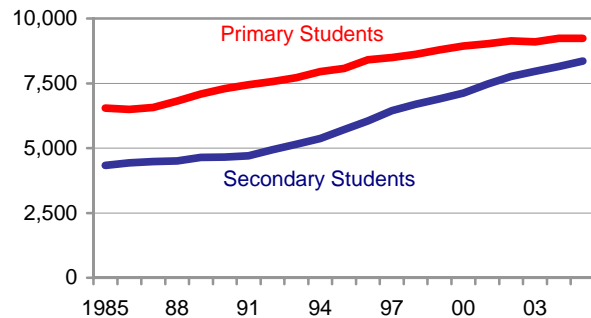
**Graph 26:** Broken Bay



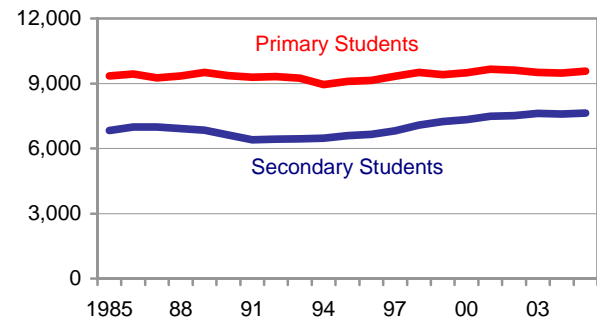
**Graph 27:** Canberra-Goulburn



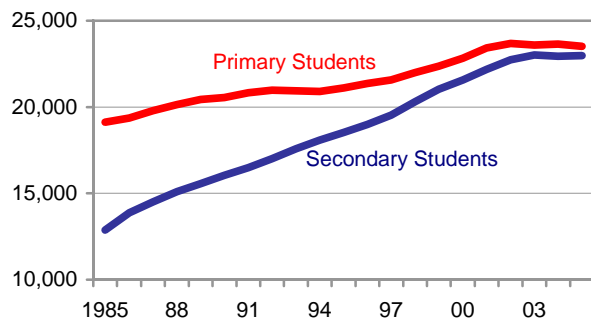
**Graph 28:** Lismore



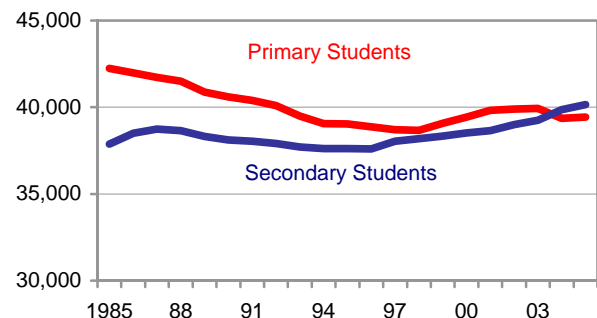
**Graph 29:** Maitland-Newcastle



**Graph 30:** Parramatta

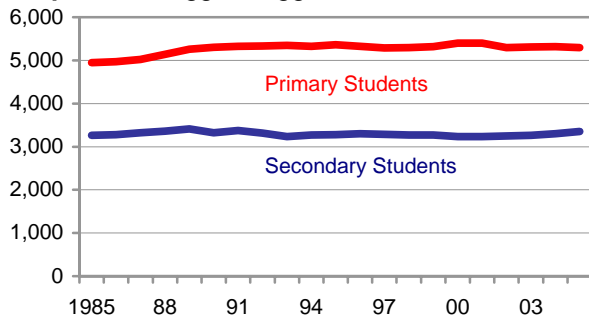


**Graph 31:** Sydney

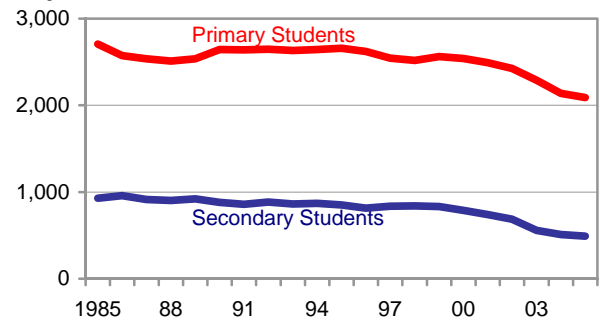


**Graphs 24 to 51: Primary and Secondary Enrolments in Catholic schools, Individual Dioceses, 1985-2005**

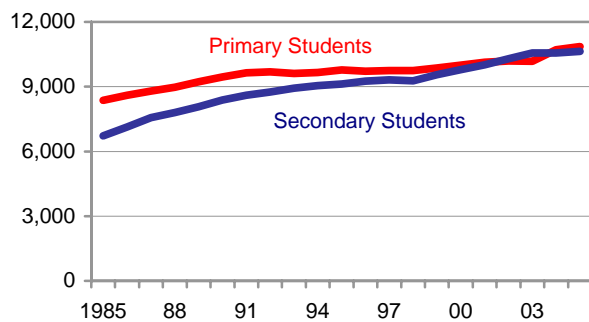
**Graph 32: Wagga Wagga**



**Graph 33: Wilcannia-Forbes**

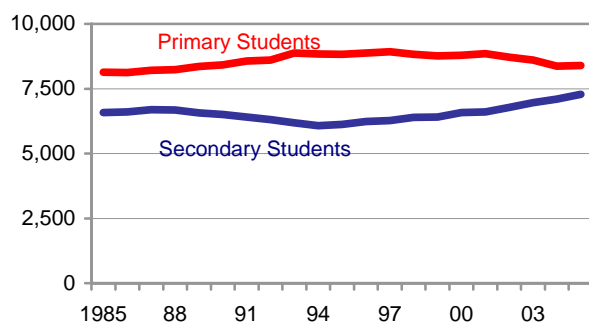


**Graph 34: Wollongong**

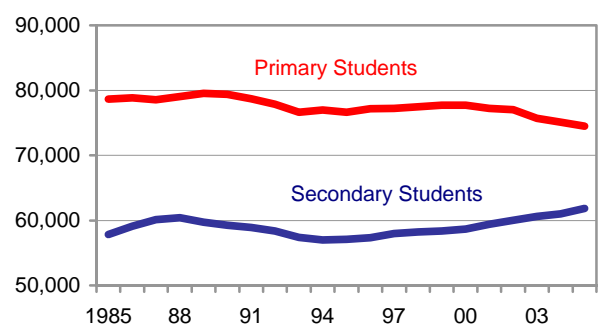


**Victoria**

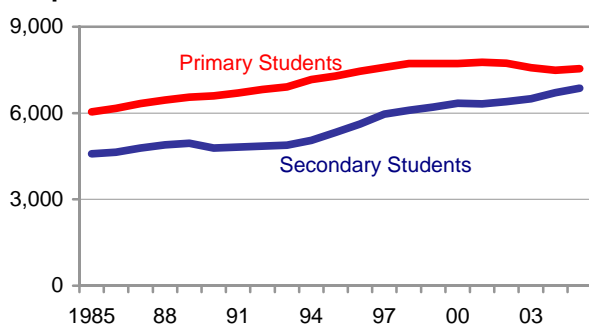
**Graph 35: Ballarat**



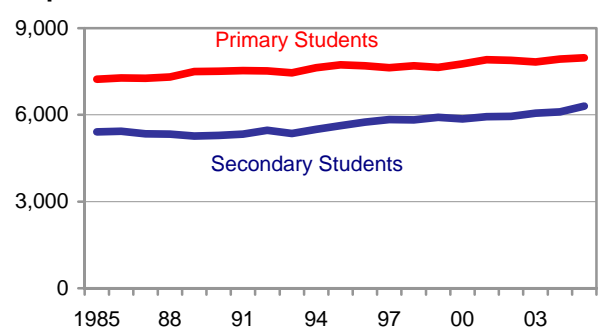
**Graph 36: Melbourne**



**Graph 37: Sale**



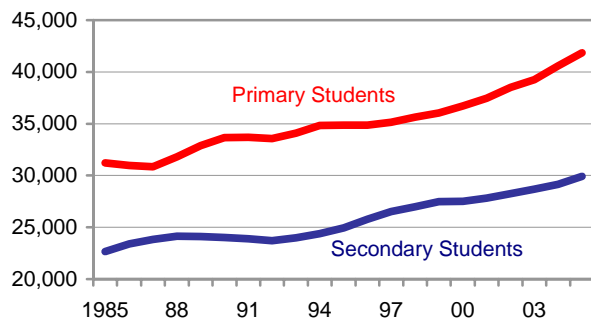
**Graph 38: Sandhurst**



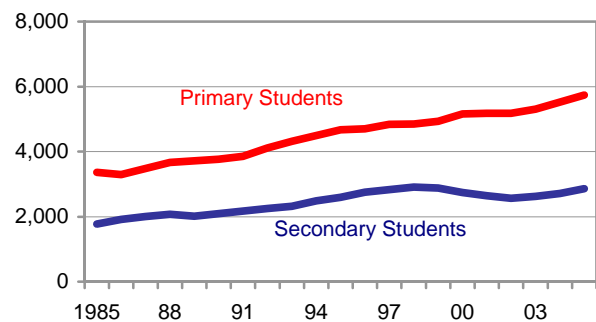
**Graphs 24 to 51: Primary and Secondary Enrolments in Catholic schools, Individual Dioceses, 1985-2005**

**Queensland**

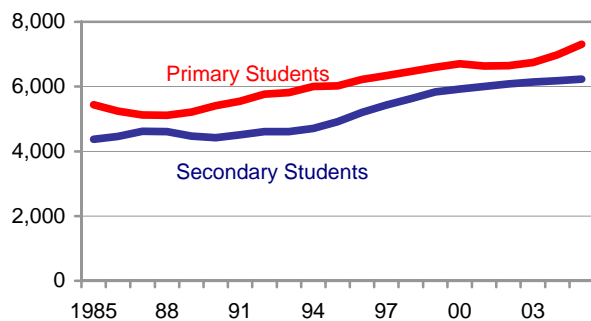
**Graph 39: Brisbane**



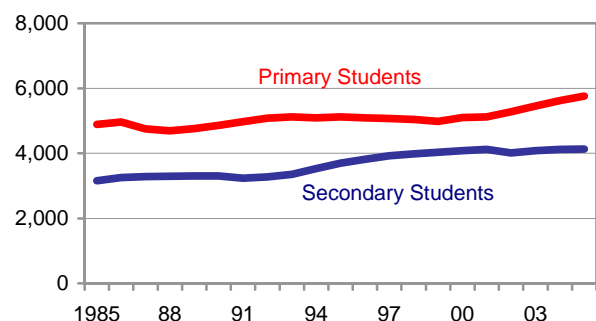
**Graph 40: Cairns**



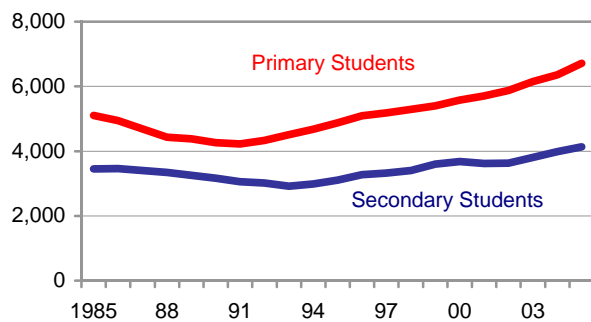
**Graph 41: Rockhampton**



**Graph 42: Toowoomba**

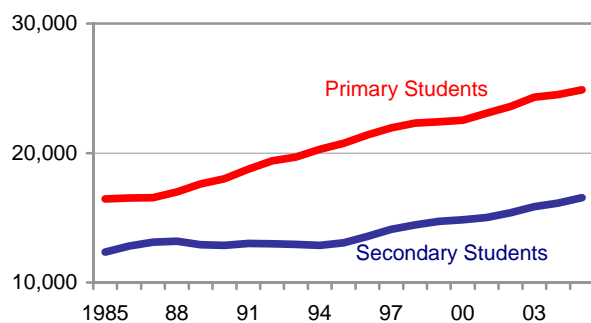


**Graph 43: Townsville**

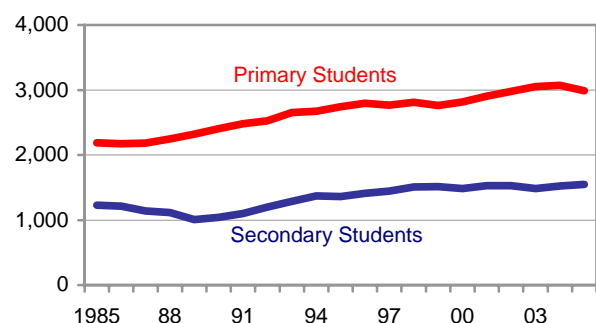


**South Australia**

**Graph 44: Adelaide**



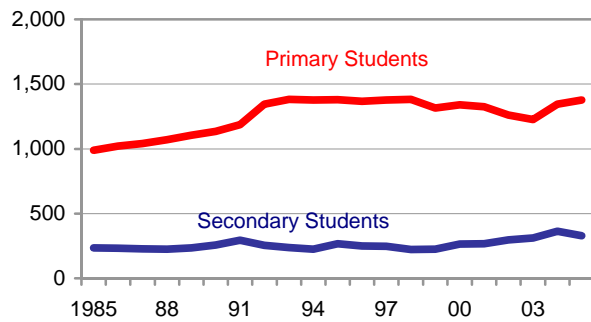
**Graph 45: Port Pirie**



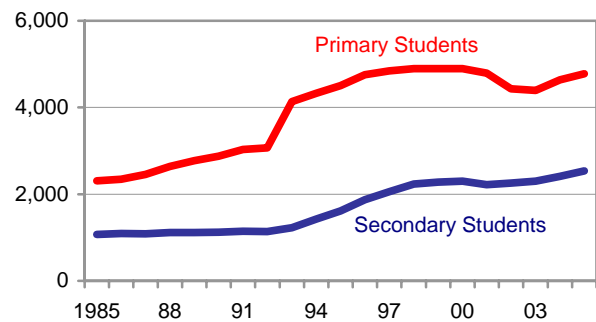
**Graphs 24 to 51: Primary and Secondary Enrolments in Catholic schools, Individual Dioceses, 1985-2005**

**Western Australia**

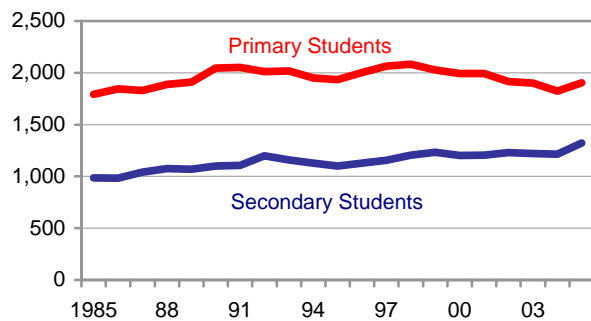
**Graph 46: Broome**



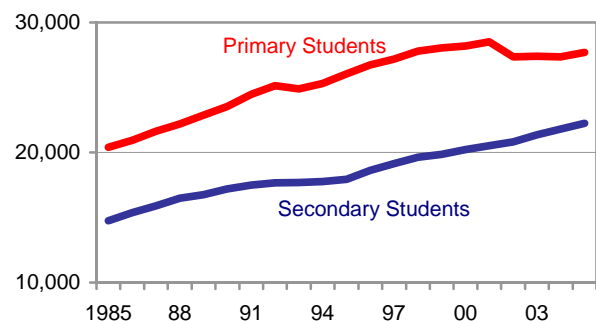
**Graph 47: Bunbury**



**Graph 48: Geraldton**

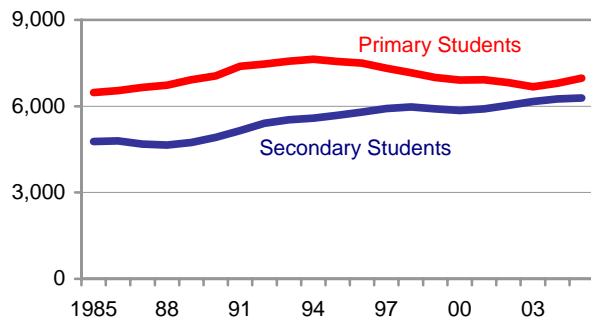


**Graph 49: Perth**



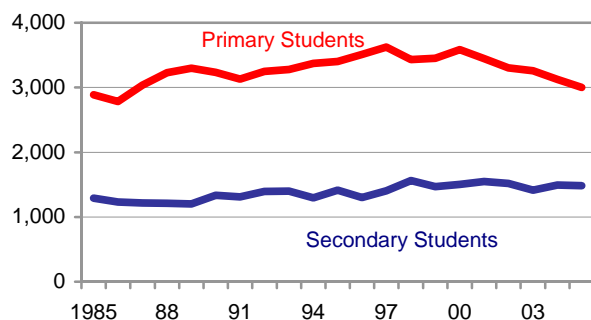
**Tasmania**

**Graph 50: Hobart**



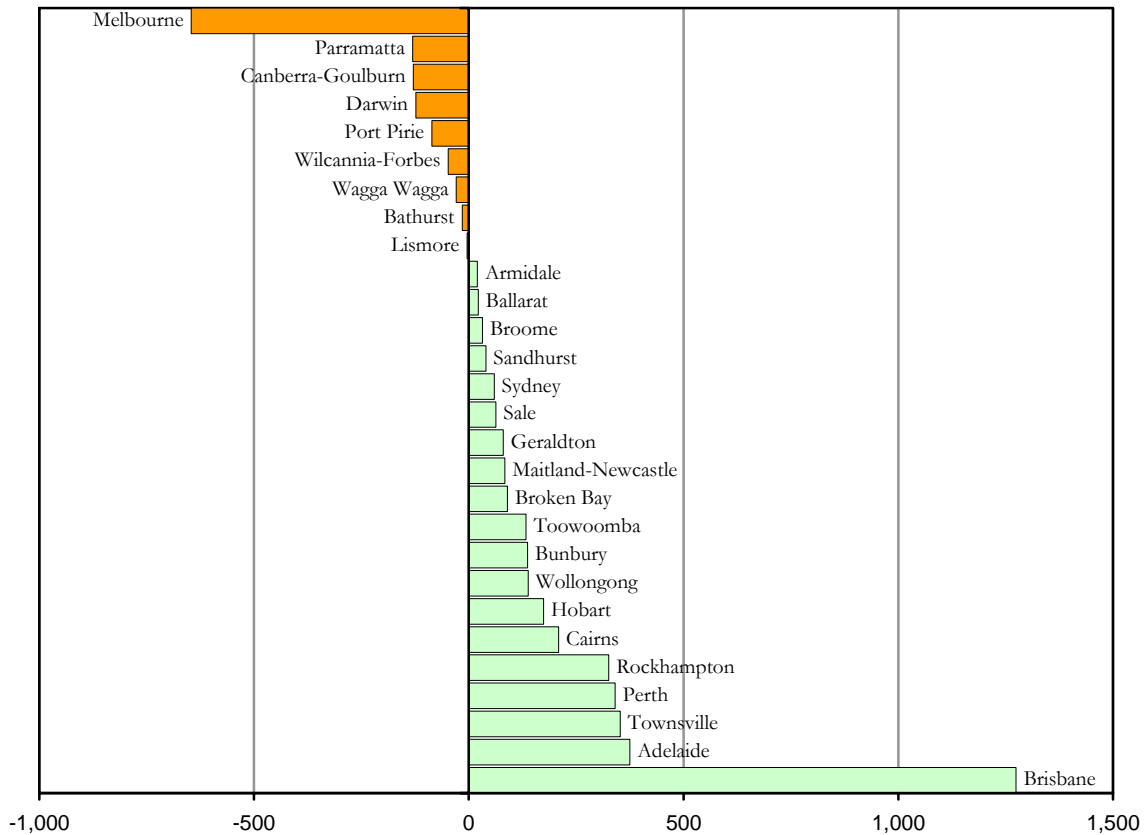
**Northern Territory**

**Graph 51: Hobart**

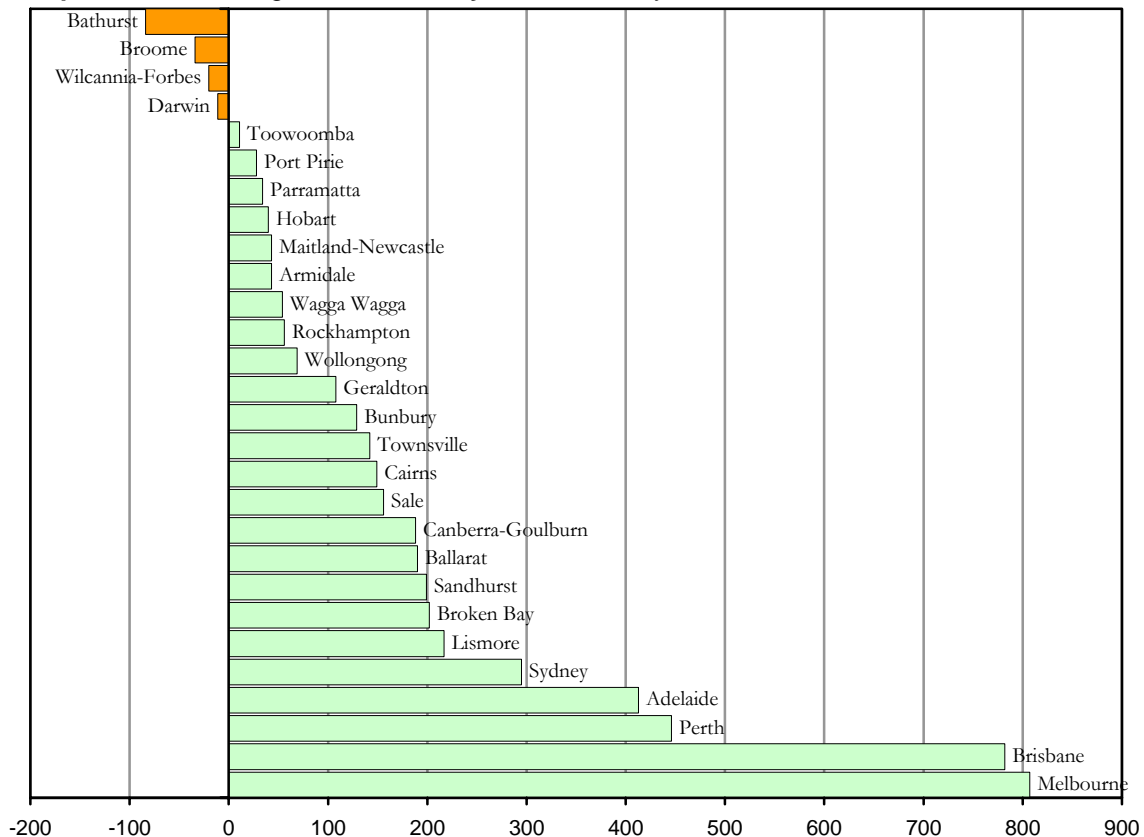


Graphs 52 and 53 and Table 13 shows the change in primary and secondary enrolments in each of the dioceses from 2004 to 2005. As noted on page 10, the change in Queensland dioceses included the introduction of pre-year 1, or 'Prep Year'.

**Graph 52: Changes in Primary enrolments, by Diocese, 2004 to 2005**



**Graph 53: Changes in Secondary enrolments, by Diocese, 2004 to 2005**



**Table 13:** Changes in Primary and Secondary enrolments by Diocese, 1985-2005

State	Diocese	Primary		Secondary		All Students	
		2005	Change from 2004	2005	Change from 2004	2005	Change from 2004
NSW and ACT	Armidale	3,948	20	1,947	43	5,895	63
	Bathurst	5,755	-15	4,048	-84	9,803	-100
	Broken Bay	11,102	90	11,312	202	22,415	293
	Canberra-Goulburn	13,357	-129	11,427	188	24,784	58
	Lismore	9,234	-4	8,363	217	17,597	213
	Maitland-Newcastle	9,561	84	7,629	43	17,190	127
	Parramatta	23,519	-131	22,982	34	46,501	-98
	Sydney	39,426	59	40,160	295	79,586	354
	Wagga Wagga	5,292	-29	3,352	54	8,643	23
	Wilcannia-Forbes	2,088	-48	489	-20	2,577	-68
	Wollongong	10,854	138	10,630	69	21,483	206
Victoria	Ballarat	8,390	22	7,287	190	15,677	212
	Melbourne	74,485	-646	61,827	807	136,311	160
	Sale	7,548	63	6,867	156	14,415	219
	Sandhurst	7,969	40	6,303	199	14,273	241
Queensland	Brisbane	41,846	1,274	29,917	782	71,763	2,056
	Cairns	5,736	209	2,857	149	8,593	357
	Rockhampton	7,312	326	6,234	56	13,546	383
	Toowoomba	5,755	133	4,132	11	9,887	144
	Townsville	6,712	353	4,130	142	10,842	495
Western Australia	Broome	1,378	32	330	-34	1,708	-2
	Bunbury	4,774	137	2,538	129	7,312	266
	Geraldton	1,904	80	1,322	108	3,226	188
	Perth	27,689	341	22,241	446	49,931	788
South Australia	Adelaide	24,882	375	16,541	413	41,423	787
	Port Pirie	2,987	-86	1,549	28	4,536	-57
Tasmania	Hobart	6,971	174	6,291	40	13,261	213
NT	Darwin	3,000	-123	1,482	-11	4,483	-133
<b>National Total</b>		<b>373,474</b>	<b>2,739</b>	<b>304,187</b>	<b>4,652</b>	<b>677,661</b>	<b>7,388</b>



## Student Retention

**Table 14** shows the Apparent Retention Rates from Catholic primary schools to Catholic secondary schools, and also the post-compulsory retention for each dioceses. Retention from primary to secondary in NSW, ACT, Victorian and Tasmanian dioceses is the retention from Grade 6 in 2004 to Grade 7 in 2005. In South Australian, Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australian dioceses, the retention is from Grade 7 in 2004 to Grade 8 in 2005. Post-Compulsory Retention is the retention from Year 10 in 2003 to Year 12 in 2005.

**Table 14:** Apparent Retention Rates: Catholic Primary to Catholic Secondary schools; and Post-Compulsory Retention, by Diocese, 2005

State	Diocese	Primary to Secondary		Post-Compulsory	
		Boys	Girls	Males	Females
NSW and ACT	Armidale	68.6	87.6	42.6	50.3
	Bathurst	100.2	90.1	50.5	74.3
	Broken Bay	118.9	157	75.2	87.8
	Canberra-Goulburn	110.7	121.4	60.8	69.6
	Lismore	120.8	115.0	63.1	70.3
	Maitland-Newcastle	95.5	91.6	68.6	94.8
	Parramatta	126.5	128.6	64.7	77.7
	Sydney	129.1	123.2	80.4	86.0
	Wagga Wagga	104.4	78.5	53.8	60.3
	Wilcannia-Forbes	24.7	34.5	—	—
Wollongong	136.6	131.0	73.5	78.0	
Victoria	Ballarat	107.2	119.8	64.2	79.4
	Melbourne	99.3	110.6	82	90
	Sale	113.8	131.2	58.8	78
	Sandhurst	108.2	113.8	55.3	78.5
Queensland	Brisbane	115.3	125.4	86.7	86.4
	Cairns	90.4	106.6	73.1	79.2
	Rockhampton	144.7	145.5	77.5	91.5
	Toowoomba	118.8	145.4	77.1	99.1
	Townsville	119.4	113.5	70.3	76.5
Western Australia	Broome	70.0	83.6	29.3	48.6
	Bunbury	103.5	88.1	58.1	70.5
	Geraldton	157.3	155.1	53.6	73
	Perth	133.2	133.1	74.9	77.6
South Australia	Adelaide	110.0	124.1	74.8	77.2
	Port Pirie	100.0	98.9	68.8	90.5
Tasmania	Hobart	122.5	117.6	53.8	67.7
NT	Darwin	87.4	113.5	37.9	55.7
<b>National Total</b>		<b>114.7</b>	<b>118.9</b>	<b>73.7</b>	<b>82.0</b>

Note that the Post-Compulsory Apparent Retention Rates for Wilcannia-Forbes has been excluded as the data refers to one school only.

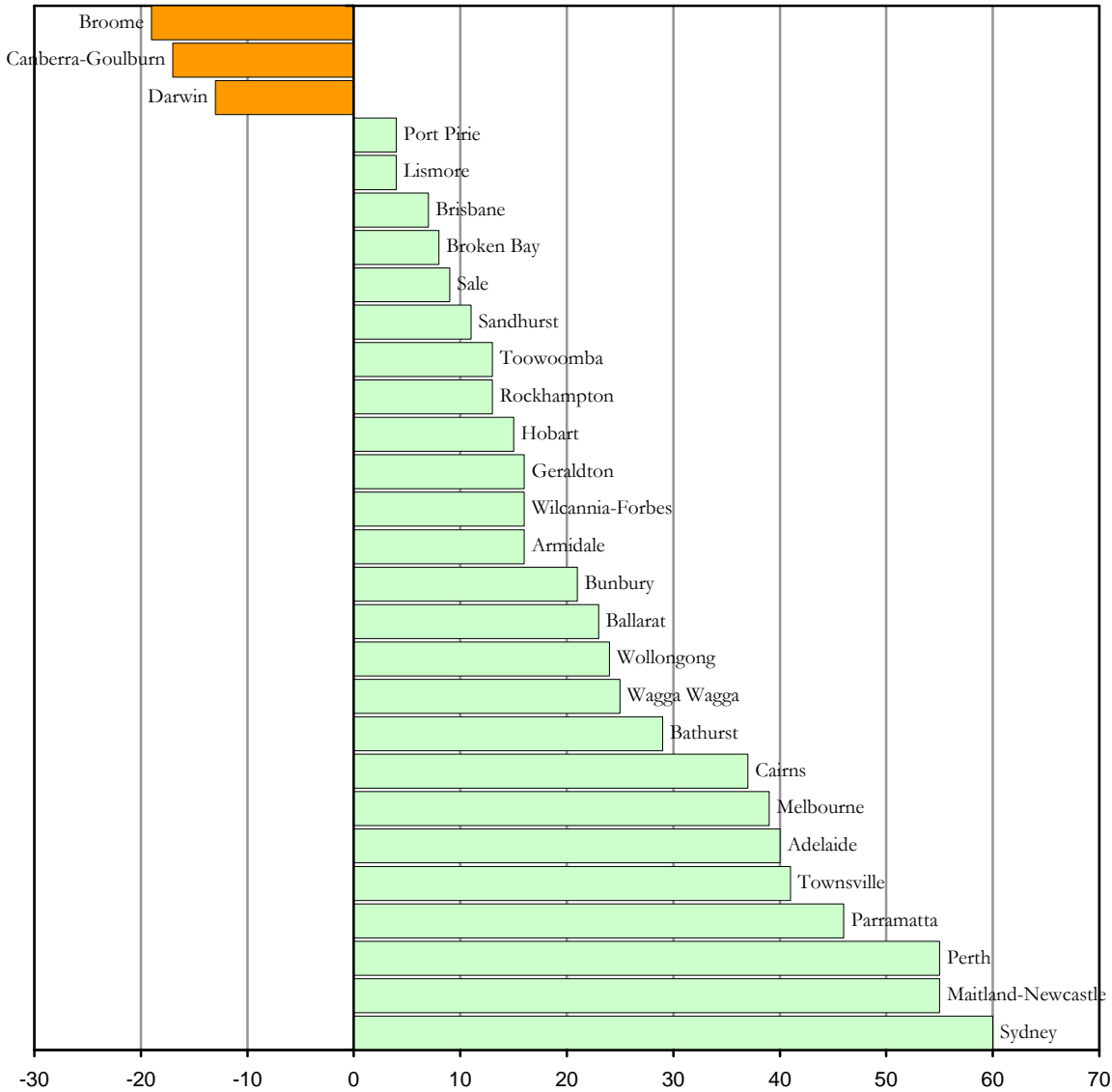
## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students

**Table 15** identifies the number Indigenous students in Catholic schools, as well as identifies the number of Indigenous students as a proportion of all students in Catholic schools in each diocese in 1985 and 2005. **Graph 54** shows the change from 2004 to 2005 for Indigenous students enrolled in Catholic schools.

**Table 15:** Number and percentage of students identified as ATSI in Catholic schools, All Diocese, 1985 and 2005

State	Diocese	1985		2005		Change from 1985 to 2005
		Number of Students	% of Students	Number of Students	% of Students	
NSW and ACT	Armidale	196	3.0%	408	6.9%	16
	Bathurst	71	0.8%	342	3.5%	29
	Broken Bay	25	0.1%	117	0.5%	8
	Canberra-Goulburn	69	0.3%	314	1.3%	-17
	Lismore	211	1.9%	437	2.5%	4
	Maitland-Newcastle	54	0.3%	390	2.3%	55
	Parramatta	50	0.2%	379	0.8%	46
	Sydney	129	0.2%	439	0.6%	60
	Wagga Wagga	43	0.5%	172	2.0%	25
	Wilcannia-Forbes	161	4.4%	243	9.4%	16
	Wollongong	30	0.2%	248	1.2%	24
Victoria	Ballarat	16	0.1%	127	0.8%	23
	Melbourne	51	0.0%	209	0.2%	39
	Sale	18	0.2%	78	0.5%	9
	Sandhurst	8	0.1%	152	1.1%	11
Queensland	Brisbane	275	0.5%	852	1.2%	7
	Cairns	311	6.1%	548	6.4%	37
	Rockhampton	213	2.2%	403	3.0%	13
	Toowoomba	128	1.6%	317	3.2%	13
	Townsville	473	5.5%	954	8.8%	41
Western Australia	Broome	1,139	93.1%	1,232	72.1%	-19
	Bunbury	19	0.6%	67	0.9%	21
	Geraldton	185	6.7%	207	6.4%	16
	Perth	274	0.8%	735	1.5%	55
South Australia	Adelaide	70	0.2%	337	0.8%	40
	Port Pirie	13	0.4%	74	1.6%	4
Tasmania	Hobart	131	1.2%	477	3.6%	15
NT	Darwin	1,060	25.4%	1,297	28.9%	-13
<b>National Total</b>		<b>5,423</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>11,555</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>578</b>

**Graph 54:** Recent change in ATSI student enrolments in Catholic schools, All Dioceses, 2004-2005



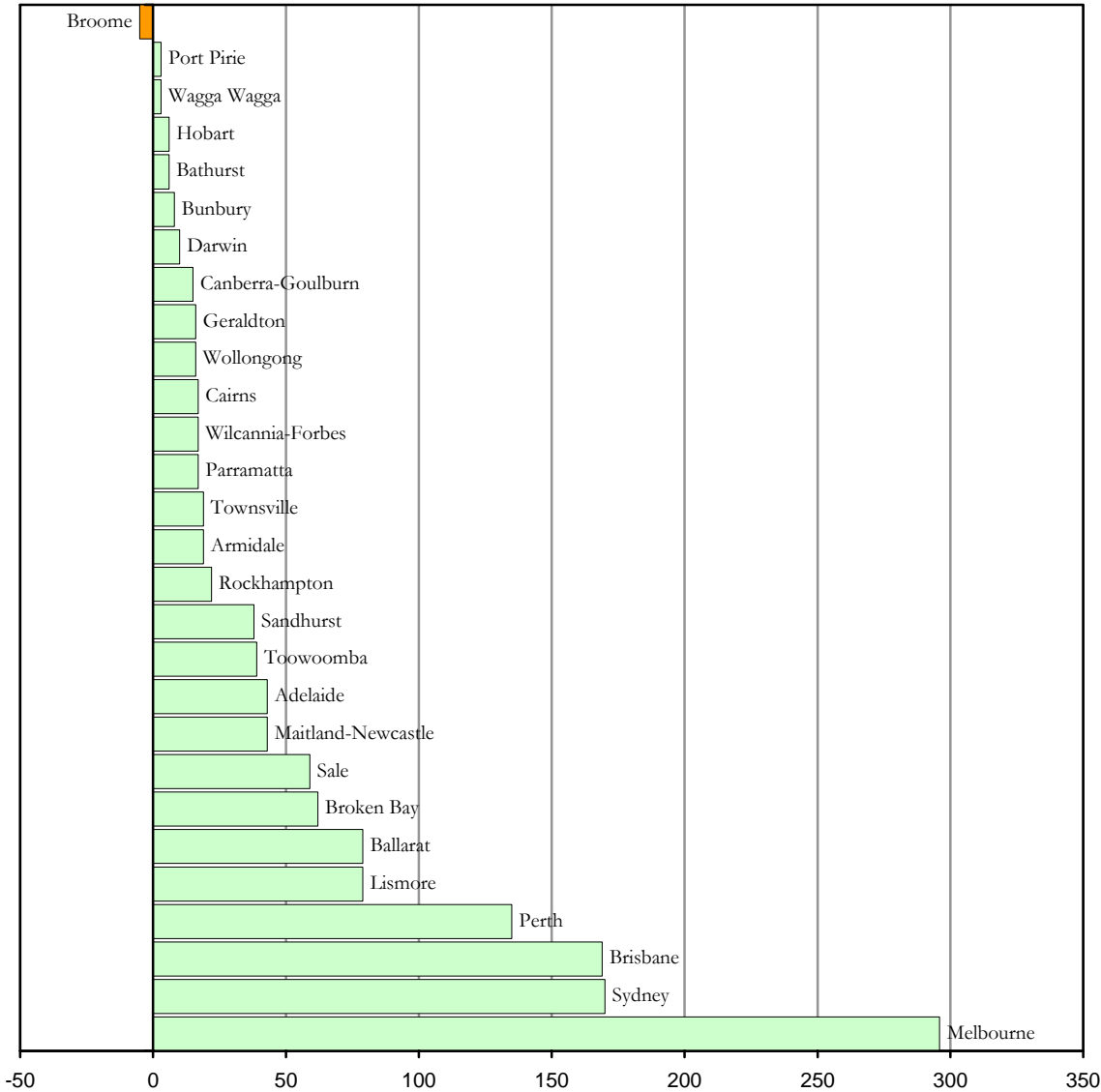
## Students with a Disability

**Table 16** identifies the number Indigenous students in Catholic schools, as well as identifies the number of Indigenous students as a proportion of all students in Catholic schools in each diocese in 1985 and 2005. **Graph 55** shows the change from 2004 to 2005 for Indigenous students enrolled in Catholic schools.

**Table 16:** Number and percentage of SWD students in Catholic schools, All Diocese, 1985 and 2005

State	Diocese	1985		2005		Change from 1985 to 2005
		Number of Students	% of Students	Number of Students	% of Students	
NSW and ACT	Armidale	11	0.2%	208	3.5%	19
	Bathurst	10	0.1%	232	2.4%	6
	Broken Bay	32	0.1%	729	3.3%	62
	Canberra-Goulburn	115	0.5%	405	1.6%	15
	Lismore	1	0.0%	578	3.3%	79
	Maitland-Newcastle	16	0.1%	436	2.5%	43
	Parramatta	74	0.2%	1,485	3.2%	17
	Sydney	175	0.2%	3,263	4.1%	170
	Wagga Wagga	15	0.2%	254	2.9%	3
	Wilcannia-Forbes	2	0.1%	82	3.2%	17
	Wollongong	19	0.1%	739	3.4%	16
Victoria	Ballarat	12	0.1%	519	3.3%	79
	Melbourne	244	0.2%	3,543	2.6%	296
	Sale	13	0.1%	387	2.7%	59
	Sandhurst	18	0.1%	386	2.7%	38
Queensland	Brisbane	141	0.3%	1,449	2.0%	169
	Cairns	7	0.1%	120	1.4%	17
	Rockhampton	10	0.1%	241	1.8%	22
	Toowoomba	6	0.1%	223	2.3%	39
	Townsville	13	0.2%	200	1.8%	19
Western Australia	Broome	2	0.2%	31	1.8%	-5
	Bunbury	4	0.1%	141	1.9%	8
	Geraldton	—	—	62	1.9%	16
	Perth	69	0.2%	1,084	2.2%	135
South Australia	Adelaide	322	1.1%	1,268	3.1%	43
	Port Pirie	49	1.4%	107	2.4%	3
Tasmania	Hobart	12	0.1%	190	1.4%	6
NT	Darwin	—	—	97	2.2%	10
<b>National Total</b>		<b>1,392</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>18,459</b>	<b>2.70%</b>	<b>1,401</b>

**Graph 55:** Recent change in SWD student enrolments in Catholic schools, All Dioceses, 2004-2005



## Full-Fee Paying Overseas Students

**Table 17** shows the number of FFPOS students in each diocese in 2005, as well as identifying the number and proportion of FFPOS students enrolled in primary school.

**Table 17:** FFPOS Students, and proportion of FFPOS students in Primary schools, all Dioceses, 2005

State	Diocese	Primary FFPOS	Secondary FFPOS	Total FFPOS	Primary as % of FFPOS
NSW and ACT	Armidale	—	2	2	—
	Bathurst	1	7	8	13%
	Broken Bay	32	255	287	11%
	Canberra-Goulburn	7	11	18	39%
	Lismore	—	2	2	—
	Maitland-Newcastle	—	—	—	—
	Parramatta	21	19	40	53%
	Sydney	80	311	391	20%
	Wagga Wagga	1	1	2	50%
	Wilcannia-Forbes	—	1	1	—
Wollongong	1	146	147	1%	
Victoria	Ballarat	—	8	8	—
	Melbourne	28	214	242	12%
	Sale	—	4	4	—
	Sandhurst	—	2	2	—
Queensland	Brisbane	69	258	327	21%
	Cairns	12	9	21	57%
	Rockhampton	—	2	2	—
	Toowoomba	—	22	22	—
	Townsville	—	12	12	—
Western Australia	Broome	—	—	—	—
	Bunbury	—	2	2	—
	Geraldton	—	—	—	—
	Perth	46	183	229	20%
South Australia	Adelaide	9	321	330	3%
	Port Pirie	—	—	—	—
Tasmania	Hobart	1	2	3	33%
NT	Darwin	3	64	67	4%
<b>National Total</b>		<b>311</b>	<b>1858</b>	<b>2,169</b>	<b>14%</b>

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