

# Australian Catholic Education Statistics 2022

## About this report

From humble beginnings over 200 years ago, Australia's **1,759 Catholic schools** now educate nearly **794,000** or one in five Australian students. In 2022, Catholic schools employed more than **104,000 teaching and non-teaching staff**.

The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census data shows Catholic education remains the major provider of education outside of government, with enrolments growing from 766,088 students in 2017 to 793,729 in 2022.

The ABS data also shows strong growth across all faith-based non-government schools, with enrolments increasing around 8% over five years. Overall enrolments in faith-based schools increased from over 1.2 million in 2017 to 1.3 million in 2022.

Today around 30% of all Australian students are educated in faith-based schools, and Catholic schools are the major provider of faith-based education in the country, enrolling about 60% of students in the non-government sector.

This growth shows the great importance Australian families place on choosing a school that meets the needs of their child and reflects their values and beliefs.

Catholic schools give families the choice of a holistic, balanced and affordable education. Sharing our Catholic faith, lifting educational standards, and supporting the diverse needs and wellbeing of students is at the heart of our mission.

Our schools are inclusive, welcoming students from all backgrounds, with growing numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and students with disability. Almost 40% of Catholic schools are located outside major metropolitan areas.

This report provides a comprehensive look at Catholic schools across Australia and is published as part of the National Catholic Education Commission's ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability.

## SNAPSHOT OF AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC EDUCATION



**38%** of Australia's **1,759** Catholic Schools are in regional and remote areas

Nearly **794,000** students attend Catholic schools



793,897 headcount / 793,729 FTE



Over **104,000 staff** work in Catholic education

Teaching - 66,632 headcount / 58,460 FTE  
All staff - 104,579 headcount / 85,242 FTE



**1 in 5** Australian students attend a Catholic school

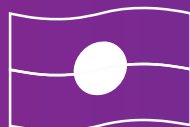
Primary - 17.8%\*  
Secondary - 21.4%\*

\*2021 data



Students with disability make up **20.6%** of student population in Catholic schools

163,737 FTE



Since 2000 the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Catholic schools has increased by **195.2%**

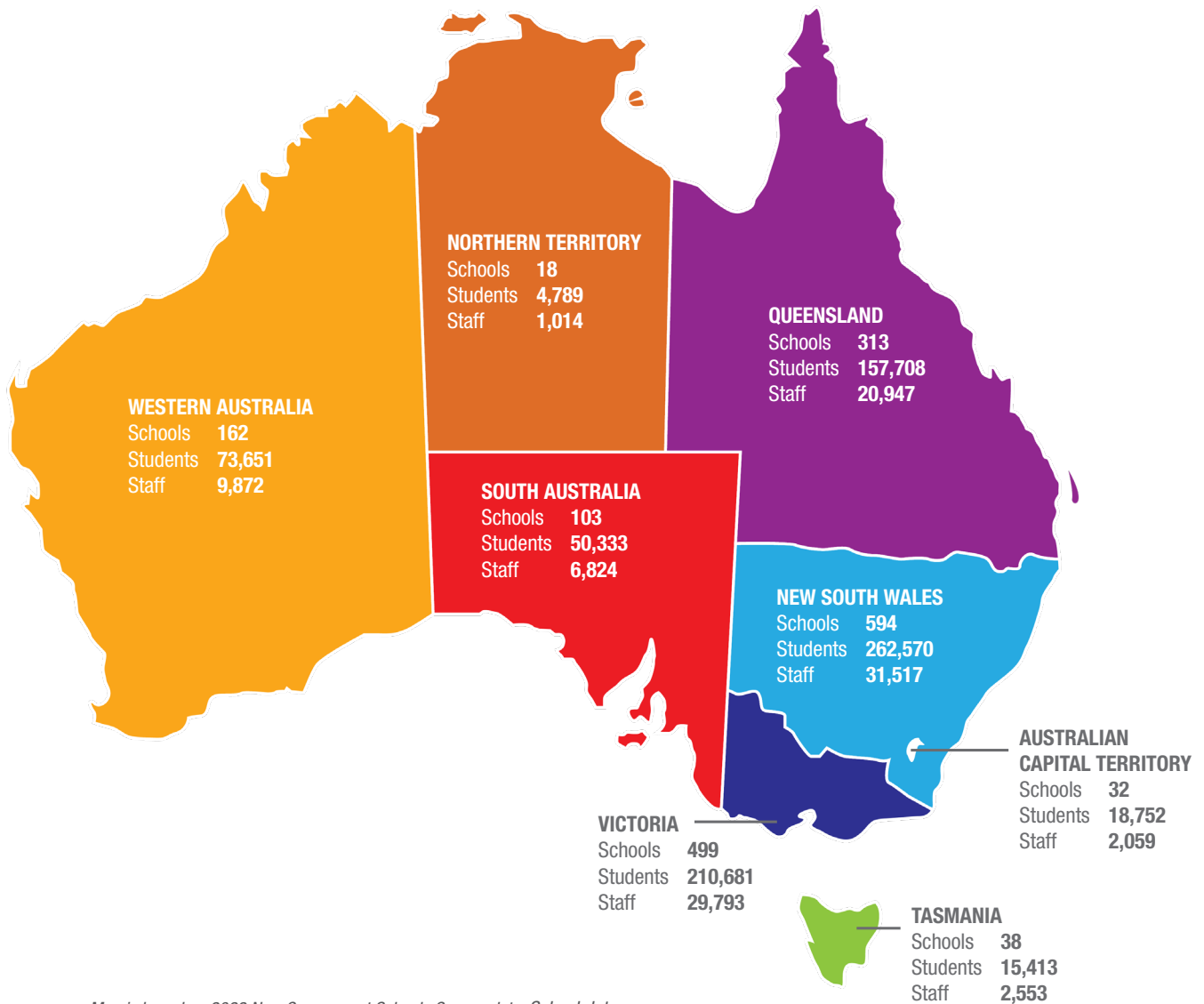
**41.9%** of Catholic school students are funded for socio-educational disadvantage



**91%** of Catholic schools are co-educational  
**3%** are boarding schools

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Map is based on 2022 Non-Government Schools Census data. School data includes main campus only. Student and staff numbers are headcount.

# STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT 2022\*

## SCHOOLS

Type	No. of Schools	% of Schools
<b>All Catholic Schools</b>	<b>1,759</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Primary Schools	1,236	70.3%
Secondary Schools	324	18.4%
Combined Schools	152	8.6%
Special Schools	47	2.7%
Co-Educational Schools	1,602	91.1%
Single Sex Schools	157	8.9%
Boarding Schools	52	3.0%

Type	No. of Schools	% of Schools
Major Cities	1,090	62.0%
Inner Regional	392	22.3%
Outer Regional	209	11.9%
Remote/Very Remote	68	3.9%
Schools in Catholic Systems	1,701	96.7%
Independent Catholic Schools	58	3.3%

## STUDENTS

Headcount	No. of Students	% of Students
<b>All Students</b>	<b>793,897</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Primary	407,858	51.4%
Secondary	386,039	48.6%
Students of Catholic Religion		61.1%
Boarding Students		0.7%
Full Fee-Paying Overseas Students		0.1%

Full-time Equivalent (FTE)	No. of Students	% of Students
<b>All Students (FTE)</b>	<b>793,729.0</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Primary (FTE)	407,784.4	51.4%
Secondary (FTE)	385,944.6	48.6%
Students with Disability (FTE)	163,736.8	20.6%
Indigenous Students (FTE)	28,232.5	3.6%

## STAFF

Headcount	No. of Staff	% of Staff
<b>All Staff</b>	<b>104,579</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
All Teaching Staff	66,632	100.0%
Primary	31,794	47.7%
Secondary/Combined	34,838	52.3%
All Non-Teaching Staff	37,947	100.0%
Primary	18,110	47.7%
Secondary/Combined	19,837	52.3%

Full-time Equivalent (FTE)	No. of Staff	% of Staff
<b>All Staff (FTE)</b>	<b>85,241.5</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
All Teaching Staff (FTE)	58,459.8	100.0%
Primary (FTE)	26,759.7	45.8%
Secondary (FTE)	31,489.8	53.9%
Special (FTE)	210.3	0.4%
All Non-Teaching Staff (FTE)	26,781.7	100.0%
Primary (FTE)	11,925.7	44.5%
Secondary (FTE)	14,566.0	54.5%
Special (FTE)	290.0	1.1%

\* Percentages may not add up to 100.0% due to rounding.

# SCHOOL PROFILE

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BY STATE AND TERRITORY, 2012-2022

State / Territory	Schools (2012)	Schools (2022)	Growth (Number)	Growth (%)
Australian Capital Territory	30	32	2	6.7%
New South Wales	581	594	13	2.2%
Northern Territory	17	18	1	5.9%
Queensland	293	313	20	6.8%
South Australia	103	103	-	-
Tasmania	37	38	1	2.7%
Victoria	486	499	13	2.7%
Western Australia	159	162	3	1.9%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>1,706</b>	<b>1,759</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>3.1%</b>

TABLE 2: NUMBER OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BY STATE AND TERRITORY AND BY TYPE, 2022

State / Territory	Primary Schools (2022)	Secondary Schools (2022)	Combined Schools (2022)	Special Schools (2022)
Australian Capital Territory	24	6	2	-
New South Wales	419	129	32	14
Northern Territory	8	4	5	1
Queensland	197	65	37	14
South Australia	61	9	28	5
Tasmania	24	5	8	1
Victoria	395	84	13	7
Western Australia	108	22	27	5
<b>Australia</b>	<b>1,236</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>47</b>

TABLE 3: NUMBER OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BY REMOTENESS AND BY TYPE, 2022

Remoteness	Primary Schools (2022)	Secondary Schools (2022)	Combined Schools (2022)	Special Schools (2022)
Major Cities	761	213	82	34
Inner Regional	279	78	29	6
Outer Regional	152	29	25	3
Remote & Very Remote	44	4	16	4
<b>Australia</b>	<b>1,236</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>47</b>

TABLE 4: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BY SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS, 2022

	Co-educational Schools (2022)	Single-sex Schools (2022)	Boarding Schools (2022)
Number	1,602	157	52
%	91.1%	8.9%	3.0%

# STUDENT PROFILE

TABLE 5: ENROLMENT (FTE) IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BY STATE AND TERRITORY, 2012-2022

State / Territory	Students (FTE) (2012)	Students (FTE) (2022)	Growth (%)
Australian Capital Territory	17,484.8	18,748.8	7.2%
New South Wales	247,226.3	262,553.1	6.2%
Northern Territory	4,629.1	4,787.4	3.4%
Queensland	138,153.5	157,688.4	14.1%
South Australia	48,374.9	50,291.5	4.0%
Tasmania	14,625.4	15,406.4	5.3%
Victoria	197,491.4	210,606.4	6.6%
Western Australia	67,417.6	73,647.0	9.2%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>735,403.0</b>	<b>793,729.0</b>	<b>7.9%</b>

TABLE 6: ENROLMENT BY PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS BY STATE AND TERRITORY, 2022

State / Territory	Primary Headcount (2022)	Secondary Headcount (2022)	All students Headcount (2022)
Australian Capital Territory	9,403	9,349	18,752
New South Wales	131,503	131,067	262,570
Northern Territory	2,467	2,322	4,789
Queensland	81,671	76,037	157,708
South Australia	26,931	23,402	50,333
Tasmania	7,834	7,579	15,413
Victoria	110,813	99,868	210,681
Western Australia	37,236	36,415	73,651
<b>Australia</b>	<b>407,858</b>	<b>386,039</b>	<b>793,897</b>

TABLE 7: ENROLMENT IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BY REMOTENESS, 2022

Remoteness	Headcount (2022)	Primary (FTE) (2022)	Secondary (FTE) (2022)	All Students (FTE) (2022)
Major Cities	572,450	286,817.1	285,535.3	572,352.4
Inner Regional	153,392	80,336.9	73,000.3	153,337.2
Outer Regional	58,702	34,090.3	24,597.6	58,687.9
Remote & Very Remote	9,353	6,540.1	2,811.4	9,351.5
<b>Australia</b>	<b>793,897</b>	<b>407,784.4</b>	<b>385,944.6</b>	<b>793,729.0</b>

TABLE 8: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF BOARDING AND OVERSEAS STUDENTS, 2022

	Boarding students (FTE) (2022)	Full-Fee-Paying Overseas Students (FTE) (2022)
Number	5,259.9	850.0
%	0.7%	0.1%

# STUDENT PROFILE

TABLE 9: STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY (FTE) IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BY STATE AND TERRITORY AND NCCD ADJUSTMENT LEVEL, 2022\*

State / Territory	QDTP** (2022)		Supplementary (2022)		Substantial (2022)		Extensive (2022)		All Levels* (2022)	
Australian Capital Territory	926.6	4.9%	2,606.5	13.9%	740.0	3.9%	113.7	0.6%	4,386.8	23.4%
New South Wales	11,077.8	4.2%	30,691.9	11.7%	9,187.4	3.5%	2,011.0	0.8%	52,968.1	20.2%
Northern Territory	150.0	3.1%	488.0	10.2%	676.0	14.1%	124.4	2.6%	1,438.4	30.0%
Queensland	4,938.0	3.1%	16,623.0	10.5%	6,035.8	3.8%	546.2	0.3%	28,143.0	17.8%
South Australia	2,867.5	5.7%	6,651.4	13.2%	1,923.6	3.8%	418.1	0.8%	11,860.6	23.6%
Tasmania	705.0	4.6%	1,966.2	12.8%	647.0	4.2%	103.6	0.7%	3,421.8	22.2%
Victoria	12,587.4	6.0%	22,253.5	10.6%	11,146.3	5.3%	2,236.9	1.1%	48,224.1	22.9%
Western Australia	5,091.8	6.9%	6,613.6	9.0%	1,267.1	1.7%	321.5	0.4%	13,294.0	18.1%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>38,344.1</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>87,894.1</b>	<b>11.1%</b>	<b>31,623.2</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>5,875.4</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>163,736.8</b>	<b>20.6%</b>

\*Percentages represent the proportion of Catholic school students who receive support through an NCCD adjustment in each state or territory. \*\*QDTP: Support within quality differentiated teaching practice (QDTP)

TABLE 10: INDIGENOUS STUDENTS (FTE) IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, BY STATE AND TERRITORY, 2012-2022

State / Territory	Indigenous Students (FTE) (2012)		Indigenous Students (FTE) (2022)		Growth (%)
Australian Capital Territory	270.0	1.5%	491.0	2.6%	81.9%
New South Wales	5,818.5	2.4%	9,913.0	3.8%	70.4%
Northern Territory	1,716.0	37.1%	1,557.0	32.5%	-9.3%
Queensland	4,882.1	3.5%	8,464.6	5.4%	73.4%
South Australia	593.4	1.2%	1,068.4	2.1%	80.0%
Tasmania	681.0	4.7%	1,356.3	8.8%	99.2%
Victoria	1,109.4	0.6%	2,295.6	1.1%	106.9%
Western Australia	2,279.0	3.4%	3,086.6	4.2%	35.4%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>17,349.4</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>28,232.5</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>62.7%</b>

\*Percentages represent the proportion of Catholic school students who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students in each state or territory.

# STAFF PROFILE

TABLE 11: STAFF IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS (HEADCOUNT), BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, 2012-2022

Employment Status	Part-time (2022)	Full-time (2022)	All Staff (2022)
Teaching staff	19,138	47,494	66,632
Non-Teaching Staff	26,956	10,991	37,947
<b>All staff</b>	<b>46,094</b>	<b>58,485</b>	<b>104,579</b>

TABLE 12: STAFF IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BY STATE AND TERRITORY, 2022

State / Territory	Headcount (2022)	Staff (FTE) (2022)
Australian Capital Territory	2,059	1,728.0
New South Wales	31,517	25,552.1
Northern Territory	1,014	871.7
Queensland	20,947	17,316.1
South Australia	6,824	5,407.6
Tasmania	2,553	1,904.9
Victoria	29,793	24,206.4
Western Australia	9,872	8,254.7
<b>Australia</b>	<b>104,579</b>	<b>85,241.5</b>

TABLE 13: STAFF IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BY REMOTENESS, 2022

Remoteness	Headcount (2022)	Staff (FTE) (2022)
Major Cities	72,308	59,262.1
Inner Regional	21,222	17,124.8
Outer Regional	9,112	7,241.4
Remote & Very Remote	1,937	1,613.2
<b>Australia</b>	<b>104,579</b>	<b>85,241.5</b>

# ABOUT THE DATA

## Scope of the report

Australian Catholic Education Statistics 2022 Report includes the data for the two main categories of Catholic schools – Diocesan and other Catholic school authorities\*.

**Diocesan schools** are administered by the Catholic Dioceses under the authority of the Bishop. Under Canon (Church) Law, the Bishop exercises responsibility through a local Diocesan Catholic Schools Authority, which provides direct administrative and educational support to the schools in a Diocese. All Diocesan schools operate within state and territory Catholic systems.

**Other Catholic school authorities** are conducted and administered by Religious Institutes or Ministerial Public Juridic Persons (PJsPs).

*\*Recognition by Ecclesiastical Authority is required for Catholic schools to be included in the NCEC's report. Seven schools that appear as "Catholic" in the Australian Government's National School Census are not recognised by an ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese (Canon 803) and are not included in the statistics in this report. These schools are St Philomena's School, Parkridge (Queensland); Divine Mercy College, Yangebup (Western Australia); St Thomas Aquinas College, Tynong (Victoria); Saint Mary MacKillop College, Wagga Wagga (New South Wales); Saint Mary MacKillop College, Albury Jindera (New South Wales); Immaculate Heart College, Lower Chittering (Western Australia); and St Dominic Savio School, Rockdale (New South Wales).*

## Sources of data

Information on schools, students and staff in this report is sourced from the National Schools Census conducted by the Australian Government since 1985. This census collects information annually from all non-government schools on the first Friday in August. The statistics in the Australian Catholic Education Statistics 2022 Report are validated against Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) public data. It is important to note variation in ABS statistics occurs due to the NCEC's adjustment to exclude the schools not recognised as "Catholic" by the NCEC (see *above*).

## Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD)

From 2013 the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data for Students with Disability (NCCD) was gradually introduced to strengthen schools' obligation in conformity with the Disability Standards for Education (2005). In 2018, the NCCD definition of disability was universally applied across school sectors, eliminating the necessity to continue the previous students with disability (SWD) collection. Unlike previous SWD definitions, the NCCD definition does not depend on medical or clinical diagnosis alone. Rather, eligibility for a student's inclusion in the collection is based on teachers' professional, evidence-based judgement of a student's functional learning needs and the adjustments required for that student to fully participate in education.

Four levels of adjustment are described:

- Support provided within quality differentiated teaching practice (QDTP)
- Supplementary support
- Substantial support
- Extensive support

As a measure of functional need, the NCCD definition of students with disability has significantly increased the number of students reported in 2018 compared to 2017 (up from 36,930 under the old definition to 137,746 under the new definition).

## School Type

- **Primary schools** - deliver primary education
- **Secondary schools** - deliver secondary education
- **Combined schools** - deliver both primary and secondary education
- **Special schools** including Special Assistance Schools - provide alternative educational settings for students with high-level needs and cater for students with medical conditions, physical or cognitive disability, as well as students who are at risk, have social-emotional and/or behavioural difficulties, are on remand or in the social justice system, or whose needs are better met by flexible learning structures.

## Enrolment

**Headcount** - a count of the number of students enrolled or staff employed in a school in each period. Headcount includes students and staff with a full workload and students and staff with a reduced workload.

**Full-time equivalent (FTE)** - adjusts headcount by student/staff workload.

The number of full-time equivalent students/teachers counts all students with a reduced workload as a fraction of one student. For example, a student with a 60% workload is counted as 0.6 and a teacher who works four full days in a five day week is counted as 0.8. Students/teachers with a full workload are counted as one student.

## Remoteness Categories

The location of Catholic schools is determined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) geographical measure - the Australian Statistical Geography Standard-Remoteness Area (ASGS-RA). Classification is based on the 2016 ABS Census of Population and Housing and the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+), which defines remoteness by road distance from population centre services. The five remoteness categories are: Major Cities of Australia, Inner Regional Australia, Outer Regional Australia, Remote Australia, Very Remote Australia. More information about remoteness categories is available from the ABS website <https://www.abs.gov.au/remoteness-structure>

