

Australian Parents Council

The National Federation of Organisations representing parents of non-government school students



2007 FEDERAL ELECTION

the obligation of governments to support parental choice in schooling

APC SEEKS COMMITMENTS AROUND KEY EDUCATION ISSUES

Australia needs strong, well-resourced government and non-government schools.

Greater public investment in schooling is needed to achieve nationally-agreed

Goals for Schooling in the Twenty-First Century for all Australian school students.

▶ NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL STUDENTS

Funding Entitlement for Every Student

All non-government school students are entitled to share equitably in public funds allocated to school education.

The funding entitlement of every non-government school student must be increased until:

- 1) it equates to and is set at a realistic percentage of the total real cost of educating a student in a government school at an equivalent level of schooling; and
- 2) it is adequate to provide for the differing educational needs of students and the needs of their school communities.

The funding entitlement must continue to be indexed to annual movements in average government school recurrent cost.

Specific Funding for Significant Needs

Students with disabilities attending non-government schools must be funded at a base level which is at least three times the maximum public funding level payable under the SES funding model.

Students who attend non-government schools in remote areas and/or that have significant numbers of Indigenous students must receive the maximum general recurrent funding available under the SES funding model, in addition to any other funding entitlements, to help offset the high costs of their education.

Increase in Capital Funding

Commonwealth funding for non-government school buildings and facilities must be increased to provide for the growth needs in the sector and significant increases in construction costs.

▶ ALL SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH PARTICULAR NEEDS

Indigenous Students

A significant, strategic injection of funding, resources and professional expertise is required to address the unacceptable disadvantage that remains for Indigenous students.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities in all schools must be provided with equity and real choice in their schooling. As a minimum, existing benchmarks must be used to facilitate immediate significant increases in funding for students with disabilities in mainstream and special schools.

Rural and Remote Students

Additional Emergency financial assistance is needed for schooling in times of *Exceptional Circumstance*. The parameters of Exceptional Circumstances funding need to be revisited to better meet the needs of affected students, their families and their school communities.

Accommodation and transport, including safe bus travel, need to be accepted by governments as being necessary to enable access to all levels of education for rural, remote and isolated students.

▶ PARENTS ENGAGING WITH SCHOOLS FOR THE FIRST TIME

Funding is required to further develop and implement programs to welcome and engage first-time parents in schools and school education. An area of particular focus should be parents of school-aged children who are newly arrived from overseas countries where schooling culture and language are vastly different to those in Australia.

▶ TRUE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL COSTS

All Governments must publish complete and accurate information on the total real costs of schooling children at government schools. The total costs of school education expended from all sources should be published (State, Territory and Australian Governments, parent fees, levies and fundraising).

▶ CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Australian and State and Territory governments must enter into costs sharing contractual arrangements to provide adequate public funding for all Australian school students and to reverse the declining commitment of the States and Territories to the funding of school education.

▶ FAMILY/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

A specific funding strategy is required to embed family/school partnerships into the Australian schooling culture

In this context, APC specifically seeks commitment for continued funding beyond 2007 of its highly successful parent partnership project *Successful Learning in the Early Years of Schooling: The Indigenous Parent Factor*.

▶ EARLY LEARNING

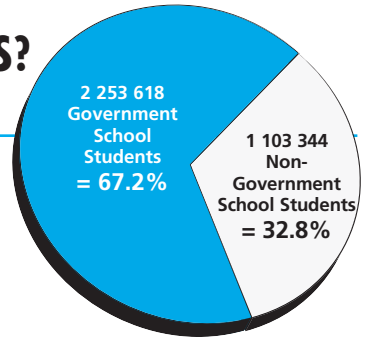
The years from birth to age five are a critical period of development. Governments must ensure that every child has the opportunity to access a quality early childhood learning experience involving their parents and qualified early childhood teaching professionals.



WHO PAYS FOR SCHOOLING

FOR 3 358 962 AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS?

LATEST AVAILABLE FIGURES



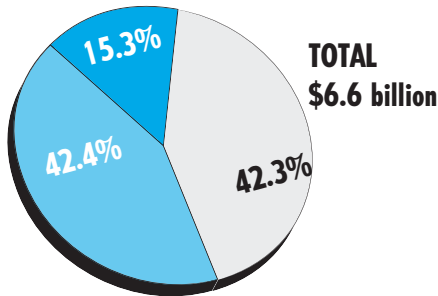
NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVE MUCH LESS THAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOL STUDENTS

Australian Governments spend more than an average of \$10 700 per annum per government school student, and \$6054 on average per non-government school student.

EVERY CHILD IN A NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL SAVES THE TAXPAYER MONEY

The annual savings to governments in Australia from the education of students in non-government schools is approximately \$5.1 billion.

SOURCES OF RECURRENT FUNDS FOR NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS 2005

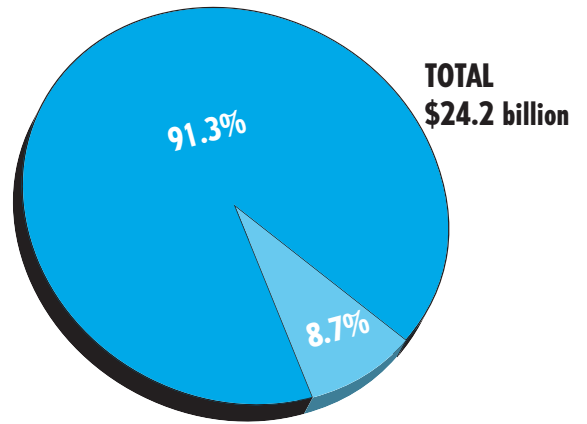


If your child goes to a non-government school

- 42.4% of the funding for their schooling, on average, is provided by the Commonwealth Government
- 15.3% is provided, on average, by State/Territory Governments
- 42.3% is provided by **private sources** (e.g. parent fees, levies and fundraising)

Source: National Report on Schooling in Australia, 2005, Appendix 1: Statistical Annex, Table 23.

SOURCES OF RECURRENT FUNDS FOR GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS 2004-05



If your child goes to a government school

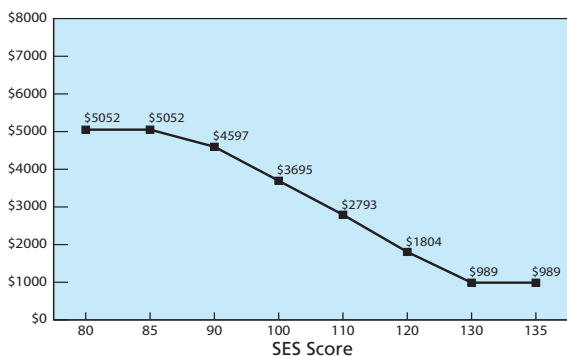
- 8.7% of the funding for their schooling, on average, is provided by the Commonwealth Government
- 91.3% is provided by State/Territory Governments

Source: Report on Government Services, 2007.

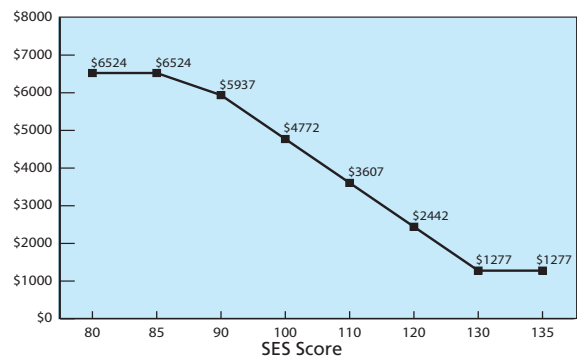
Note: Data are not provided by State and Territory governments in respect of government school income derived from private sources. However, it is generally estimated to be about 3% of total income.

SES FUNDING The Commonwealth Government's Socio-Economic Status (SES) approach to funding non-government schools links Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census data to obtain a measure of the capacity of a school community to support its school. Non-government schools with an SES score of 85 or below are funded by the Commonwealth Government at 70% of AGSRC. Schools with a score of 130 or above receive 13.7% of AGSRC. Funding for schools with SES scores between 85 and 130 is paid on the following continua.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PER CAPITA RECURRENT FUNDING BY SES SCORE FOR NON-GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS 2007



AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PER CAPITA RECURRENT FUNDING BY SES SCORE FOR NON-GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS 2007

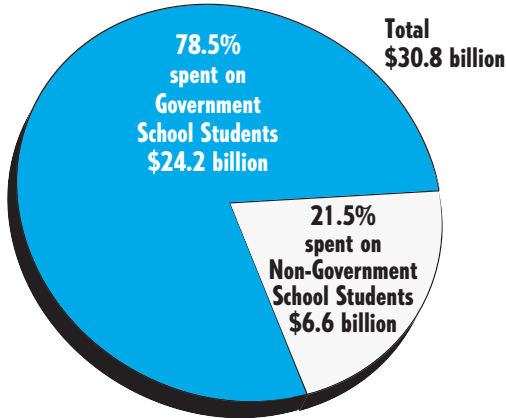


PUBLIC FUNDING OF STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS

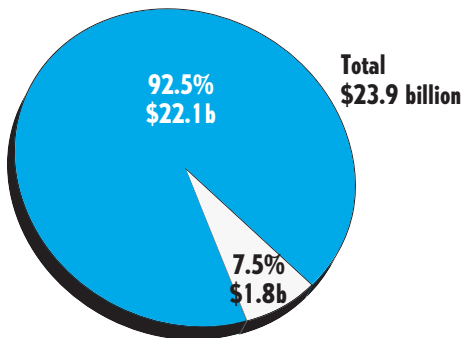


Source: Report on Government Services, 2007, Part B: Education

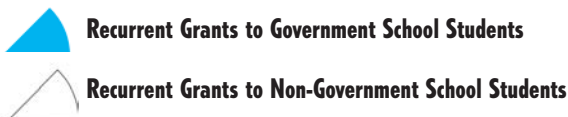
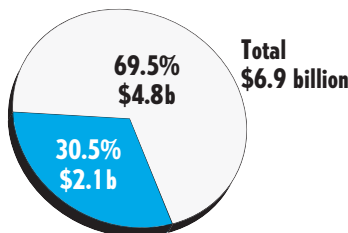
1. TOTAL GOVERNMENT RECURRENT GRANTS TO GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL STUDENTS



2. STATE/TERRITORY GOVERNMENT RECURRENT GRANTS TO GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL STUDENTS



3. COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT RECURRENT GRANTS TO GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL STUDENTS



NOTE: **Recurrent Grants:** Government contribution towards the day to day running costs of a school (salaries, teaching materials, cleaning etc.).

Capital Grants: Government contribution towards school infrastructure developments that are long term assets (new buildings and facilities, redevelopment projects etc.).

AGSRC (Average Government School Recurrent Cost): The calculation used by governments to estimate the per student recurrent cost to governments of government school provision.

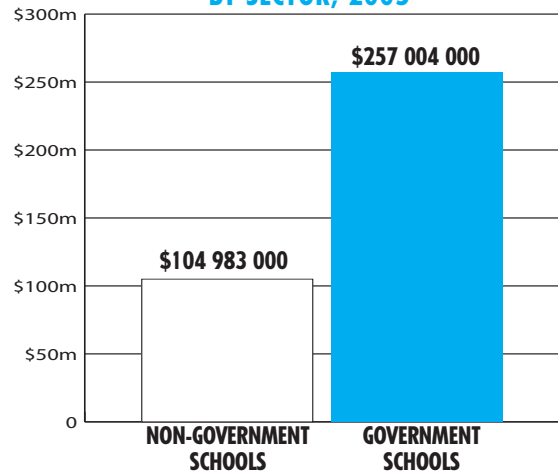
PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL STUDENTS

(Recurrent, \$billion)

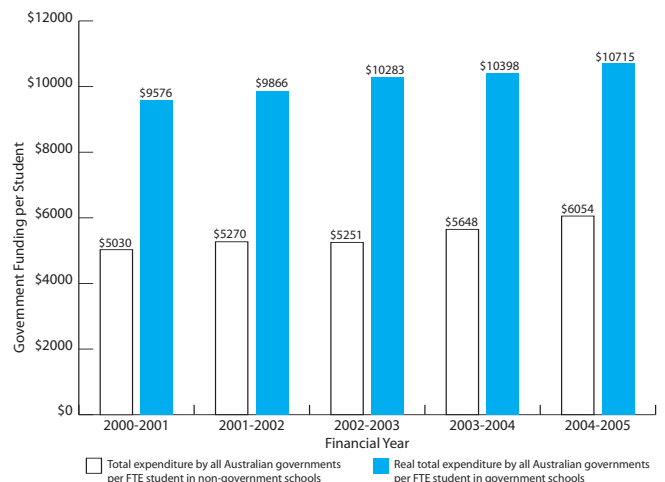
	3. Commonwealth Government	2. State/Territory Govts	1. Total
Government schools	\$2.1	\$22.1	\$24.2
Non-Govt schools	\$4.8	\$1.8	\$6.6
All Schools	\$6.9	\$23.9	\$30.8

Note: Government funding for schools comes as an informal bundle of commonwealth and state/territory grants. Since the 1960s the Commonwealth government has assumed the primary responsibility for providing recurrent funding to non-government schools. State and territory governments have been primarily responsible for the recurrent funding of government schools, much of which is provided out of specific purpose grants from the Commonwealth government. APC believes these arrangements must be formalised in a Commonwealth/States and Territories funding agreement (see page 1).

TOTAL COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT CAPITAL GRANTS BY SECTOR, 2005



RECURRENT FUNDING FOR GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL STUDENTS BY ALL GOVERNMENTS





MISSION STATEMENT

The Australian Parents Council, the national federation of non-government school parents' organisations, seeks to promote choice and quality in schooling, the equitable distribution of government funds for schooling, and effective partnerships to maximise schooling outcomes.

KEY PRINCIPLES

The work of the Australian Parents Council is underpinned by the following principles:

- Parents are the primary educators of their children.
- Parents have the right to choose the type of schooling that best suits their children.
- Governments are obliged to support parents' capacity to exercise their right to choice of schooling.
- All students have a right to access and receive a quality education to enable them to attain their potential.
- All students have the right to an equitable share of government funding for their schooling.
- The student, not the school, must be the focus for the allocation of government funds for schooling.
- Effective partnerships with and between parents, school communities and school authorities are central to the success of schooling outcomes.
- The APC is committed to supporting and nurturing affiliates and like-minded parent groups to develop and strengthen their voices.

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (Article 26)

Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (Article 13)

Governments are required 'to have respect for the liberty of parents ... to choose for their children schools, other than those established by the public authorities, which conform to such minimum educational standards as may be laid down or approved by the State and to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.'



**Parents and Friends' Federation of
Western Australia Inc.**
www.pff.wa.edu.au

NSW Parents Council Inc.
www.parentscouncil.nsw.edu.au



**Tasmanian Catholic Schools Parents
and Friends Federation**
www.ceo.hobart.catholic.edu.au/tcspff



**Federation of Catholic School Parent
Communities (SA)**
www.fedparents.adl.catholic.edu.au

ISPCSA Independent Schools Parents Council
of South Australia Inc.



**Independent Schools Parents
Council (NT)**



**Association of Parents and Friends of
ACT Schools**
www.apfacts.org.au



**The Queensland Independent Schools
Parents Council Inc.**
www.qispc.qld.edu.au

Australian Parents Council

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