

LATEST AVAILABLE FACTS AND FIGURES

The Northern Territory Independent school sector is a diverse and growing group of non-government schools. This snapshot provides an overview of the key characteristics of Independent schools, the students, the teaching and non-teaching staff, and how these schools are funded.

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

- ✓ Choice for parents
- ✓ Strong community links
- ✓ Diversity of school type, size and focus
- ✓ Autonomous governance arrangements
- ✓ Comprehensive accountability

## SCHOOL METRICS

In 2024, there were 25 Independent schools and 11 additional campuses in the Northern Territory, including 10 Majority Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander schools and 6 offering boarding services.



**25** INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS  
(with 11 additional campuses)

INCLUDING

**8** ABORIGINAL and TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
(with 2 additional campuses)



**5,978**

TOTAL STUDENTS

INCLUDING

**361** ABORIGINAL and TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER BOARDING STUDENTS

#### TYPES OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

**64%** (16)  
COMBINED

**20%** (5)  
PRIMARY

**16%** (4)  
SECONDARY

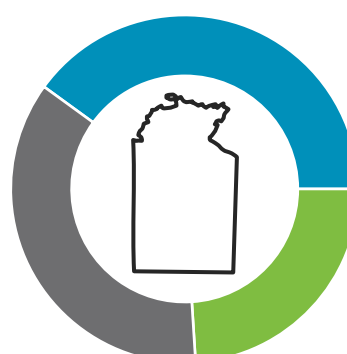


#### LOCATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

**40%**  
REGIONAL

**24%**  
REMOTE

**36%**  
VERY REMOTE



# STUDENT ENROLMENTS

The rate of growth in Independent schools has been increasing. **In 2024, enrolments in NT Independent schools grew at a rate of 1.4%,** higher than government (-1.1%) but lower than Catholic (+6.5%) schools.



## NT ENROLMENTS BY SCHOOL SECTOR AND LEVEL 2024

	GOVERNMENT	CATHOLIC	INDEPENDENT
SECONDARY SCHOOL	65%	15%	20%
PRIMARY SCHOOL	77%	11%	12%
TOTAL ENROLMENTS	72%	13%	15%

Shown as percentage of total enrolments

## NT ENROLMENT CHANGE OVER TIME BY SCHOOL SECTOR

	GOVERNMENT	CATHOLIC	INDEPENDENT
2000	77%	11%	12%
2005	77%	10%	13%
2010	74%	12%	14%
2015	71%	13%	16%
2020	74%	12%	14%
2024	72%	13%	15%

Shown as percentage of total enrolments

## TOTAL NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL ENROLMENTS BY NT SCHOOL SECTOR 2000-2024

INDEPENDENT	1,532
CATHOLIC	1,099
GOVERNMENT	-648

## ENROLMENTS BY GENDER AND LEVEL NT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS 2024

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
PRIMARY	1,838	1,374	2,757
SECONDARY	1,612	1,609	3,221
TOTAL	2,995	2,983	5,978

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY (EST.) NT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS\* 2024

SUPPORT PROVIDED WITHIN A QUALITY DIFFERENTIATED TEACHING PRACTICE	230
SUPPLEMENTARY	790
SUBSTANTIAL	530
EXTENSIVE	120

\* More information on the levels of adjustment for students with disability is available at [www.nccd.edu.au](http://www.nccd.edu.au)

## NT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN 2024:



**1,419**  
ABORIGINAL and  
TORRES STRAIT  
ISLANDER STUDENTS



**4**  
OVERSEAS  
STUDENTS



**380**  
BOARDING  
STUDENTS



**1,670**  
STUDENTS WITH  
DISABILITY  
(ESTIMATED)

# SCHOOL FUNDING

Parents and communities contributed almost a quarter of all NT Independent school funding (recurrent and capital combined).



FAMILIES CONTRIBUTED  
**\$47 MILLION**  
(RECURRENT AND CAPITAL)  
TO NT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN 2023



AN ESTIMATED SAVING OF  
**\$52 MILLION**  
TO GOVERNMENTS



MEDIAN ANNUAL FEE  
FOR NT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN 2023  
**\$3,477**

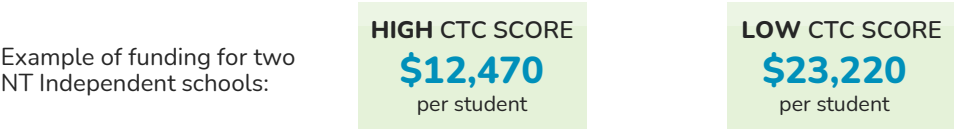
Each NT Independent school student received **\$8,000 less government funding** (on average) compared to students in government schools

## AVERAGE GOVERNMENT RECURRENT FUNDING PER NT STUDENT FY 2022-23

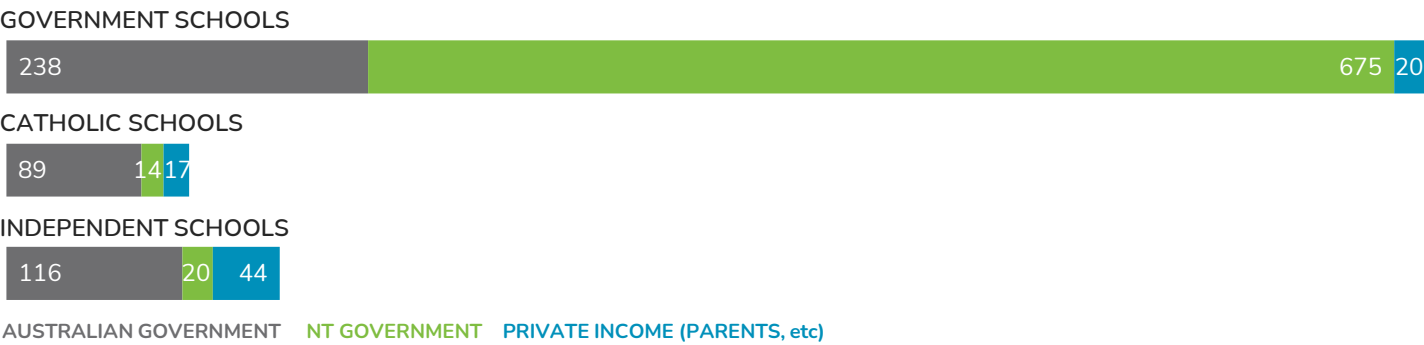


The Australian Government is the primary funding source for non-government schools, with the NT Government the primary source for government schools. The Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) is a needs-based funding model that includes base funding plus loadings to address educational disadvantage.

Base funding for Independent schools is adjusted according to families' estimated capacity to contribute (CTC), assessed on parental income tax data. Schools with a higher CTC score receive less per student base funding, and schools with a lower CTC receive more.



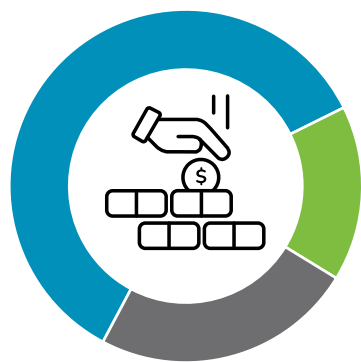
## RECURRENT FUNDING FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION IN NT \$MILLION FY 2022-23



# CAPITAL FUNDING

Parents and communities of Independent schools contribute the vast majority of capital investment – through fees, fundraising and voluntary contributions.

## SOURCES OF CAPITAL FUNDING NT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS 2023



### PRIVATE SOURCES (parents and donors)

**\$3.2 MILLION (60%)**

Most capital funding is sourced through borrowing, fundraising, levies on parents or school reserves.

### NT GOVERNMENT

**\$0.9 MILLION (16%)**

The NT Government assistance for capital funding is limited.

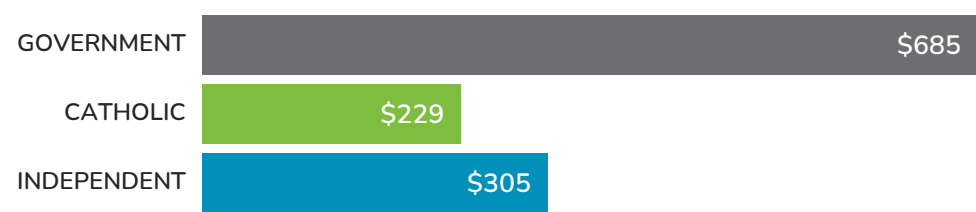
### AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAM

**\$1.3 MILLION (24%)**

Australian Government grants are distributed to Independent schools on a needs-basis through Block Grant Authorities, with priority given to disadvantaged school communities with the least capacity to raise funds.

In 2023, total government capital expenditure per student for government schools was **more than twice** than in Independent schools in NT

## TOTAL GOVERNMENT CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PER NT STUDENT COMPARISON 2023



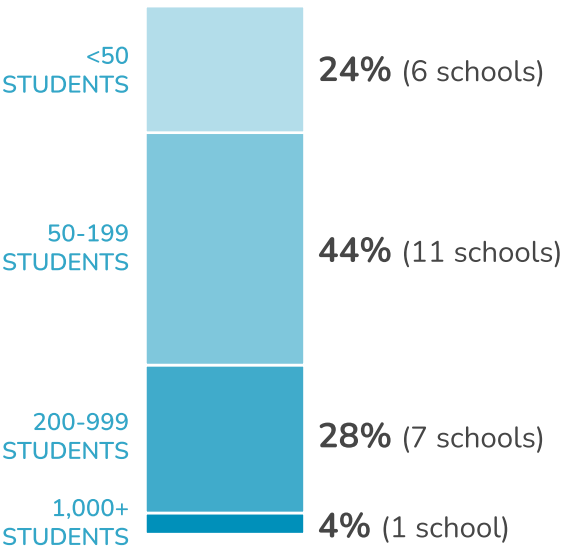
# SCHOOL PROFILE

Independent schools have diverse religious or philosophical affiliations. They represent a range of approaches to teaching and learning.

## AFFILIATIONS OF NT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS 2024

AFFILIATION	NUMBER of SCHOOLS	STUDENTS FTE	STUDENTS %
LUTHERAN	3	1,365	22.8%
CHRISTIAN	7	1,316	22.0%
COMMUNITY	8	623	10.4%
OTHER RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION	3	1,505	25.2%
OTHER	4	1,169	19.6%

## SIZE OF NT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



## GOVERNANCE

Independent schools are generally not-for-profit institutions founded by groups in the community. All Independent schools are registered with the relevant state or territory education authorities.

Independent schools are primarily accountable to their parent and school communities.

About 40% of Independent school in the NT operate within an approved system authority.

All NT Independent schools comply with relevant territory and federal education legislation and regulation.



# SCHOOL TEACHERS

Independent schools employ over 15% of all teachers in NT schools.

The ratio of student to teacher in Independent schools is the equal lowest of the school sectors.



**529**  
NUMBER OF TEACHERS  
FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT  
IN 2024

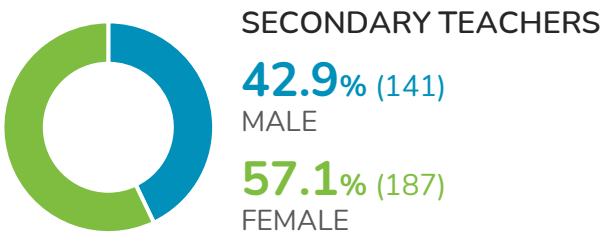
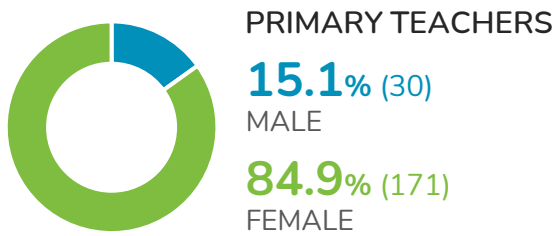


**657**  
NUMBER OF TEACHERS  
HEADCOUNT IN 2024



**1,287**  
NUMBER OF TEACHING AND  
NON-TEACHING STAFF  
HEADCOUNT IN 2024

## TEACHERS IN NT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS BY GENDER AND LEVEL 2024



## NT STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIOS BY SCHOOL LEVEL 2005-2024

	PRIMARY SCHOOLS			SECONDARY SCHOOLS		
	GOVERNMENT	CATHOLIC	INDEPENDENT	GOVERNMENT	CATHOLIC	INDEPENDENT
2005	13.6	16.9	<b>16.4</b>	11.6	10.8	<b>10.0</b>
2010	12.2	15.2	<b>16.5</b>	11.0	10.9	<b>10.3</b>
2015	13.0	15.1	<b>15.9</b>	11.9	10.7	<b>10.4</b>
2020	11.8	12.9	<b>13.7</b>	11.8	10.6	<b>10.5</b>
2024	11.3	13.8	<b>13.7</b>	11.3	10.5	<b>9.8</b>

## NT STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIOS (AVERAGE) 2024



INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS  
**11.3 to 1**



GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS  
**11.3 to 1**



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
**12.0 to 1**

### SOURCES

Figures in this snapshot are derived from data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian Government Department of Education, the Productivity Commission and the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority. Some figures may not add due to rounding. Funding figures in the snapshot use the latest available financial data which is for the financial year 2022–23, or for the calendar year 2023. Unless otherwise specified, student enrolment figures are full-time equivalent.

Produced by Independent Schools Australia.

[WWW.AISNT.ASN.AU](http://WWW.AISNT.ASN.AU)

