

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 2025, there were 26 Independent schools and 11 additional campuses in the Northern Territory, including 11 Majority Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander schools and 6 offering boarding services.



25 INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
(with 11 additional campuses)

INCLUDING

9 ABORIGINAL and TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
(with 4 additional campuses)



5,911

TOTAL STUDENTS

INCLUDING

393 ABORIGINAL and TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER BOARDING STUDENTS

TYPES OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

62% (16)
COMBINED

19% (5)
PRIMARY

19% (5)
SECONDARY

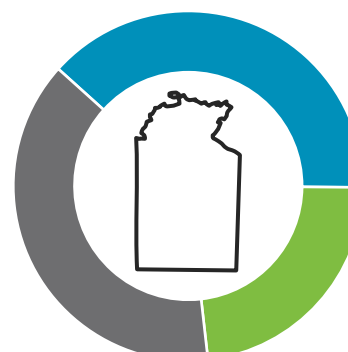


LOCATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

38%
REGIONAL

24%
REMOTE

38%
VERY REMOTE



STUDENT ENROLMENTS

The rate of growth in Independent schools has been increasing. **In 2025, enrolments in NT Independent schools fell at a rate of -1.1%**, lower than government (-0.4%) and Catholic (+3.8%) schools.



NT ENROLMENTS BY SCHOOL SECTOR AND LEVEL 2025

	GOVERNMENT	CATHOLIC	INDEPENDENT
SECONDARY SCHOOL	64%	16%	20%
PRIMARY SCHOOL	78%	11%	11%
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%
2025	72%	13%	15%

Shown as percentage of total enrolments

TOTAL NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL ENROLMENTS BY NT SCHOOL SECTOR 2000-2025

INDEPENDENT	1,465
CATHOLIC	1,294
GOVERNMENT	-759

ENROLMENTS BY GENDER AND LEVEL

NT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS 2025

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
PRIMARY	1,306	1,319	2,625
SECONDARY	1,679	1,607	3,286
TOTAL	2,985	2,926	5,911

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY (EST.) NT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS* 2025

SUPPORT PROVIDED WITHIN A QUALITY DIFFERENTIATED TEACHING PRACTICE	220
SUPPLEMENTARY	840
SUBSTANTIAL	520
EXTENSIVE	60

* More information on the levels of adjustment for students with disability is available at www.nccd.edu.au

NT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN 2025:



1,264

ABORIGINAL and TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENTS



8

OVERSEAS STUDENTS



410

BOARDING STUDENTS



1,640

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY (ESTIMATED)

SCHOOL FUNDING

Parents and communities contributed almost 30% of all NT Independent school funding (recurrent and capital combined).



FAMILIES CONTRIBUTED
\$55 MILLION
 (RECURRENT AND CAPITAL)
 TO NT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN 2024



AN ESTIMATED SAVING OF
\$50 MILLION
 TO GOVERNMENTS



MEDIAN ANNUAL FEE
 FOR NT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN 2024
\$4,094

Each NT Independent school student received **\$8,500 less government funding** (on average) compared to students in government schools

AVERAGE GOVERNMENT RECURRENT FUNDING PER NT STUDENT FY 2023-24

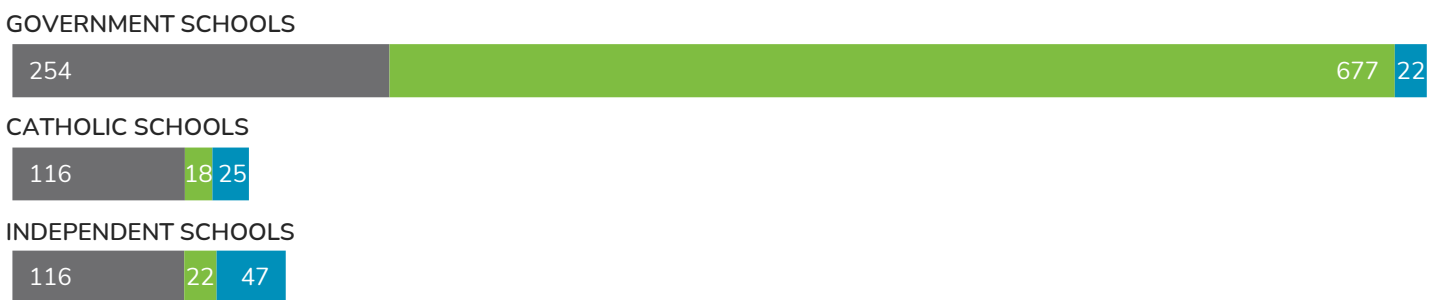


The Australian Government is the primary funding source for non-government schools, with the NT Government the primary source for government schools. The Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) is a needs-based funding model that includes base funding plus loadings to address educational disadvantage.

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 2023-24

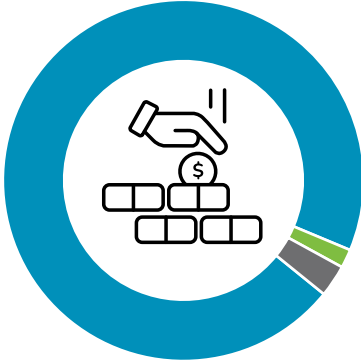


AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NT GOVERNMENT PRIVATE INCOME (PARENTS, etc)

CAPITAL FUNDING

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

SOURCES OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE NT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS 2024



PRIVATE SOURCES (parents and donors)

\$24 MILLION (95%)

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

NT GOVERNMENT

\$0.4 MILLION (2%)

The NT Government assistance for capital funding is limited.

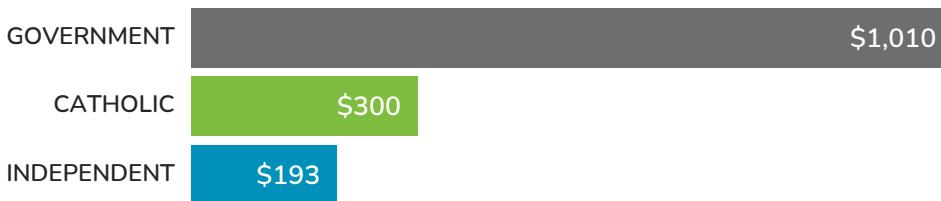
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAM

\$0.7 MILLION (3%)

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 2024, total government capital expenditure per student for government schools was **more than 5 times greater** than in Independent schools in NT

TOTAL GOVERNMENT CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PER NT STUDENT COMPARISON 2024



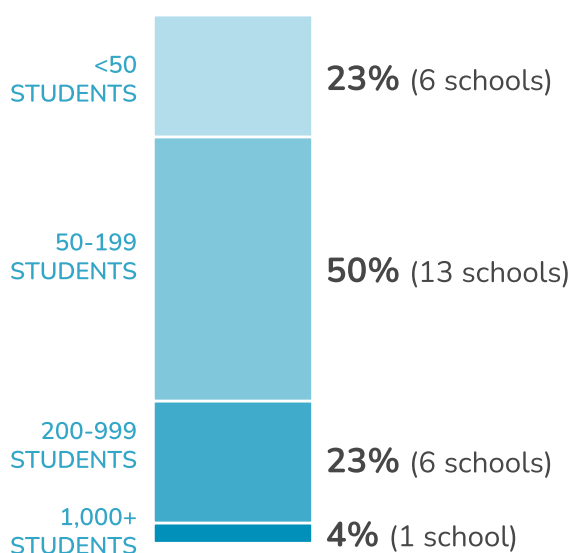
SCHOOL PROFILE

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

AFFILIATIONS OF NT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS 2025

AFFILIATION	NUMBER of SCHOOLS	STUDENTS FTE	STUDENTS %
LUTHERAN	3	1,438	24.3%
CHRISTIAN	7	1,287	21.8%
COMMUNITY	9	462	7.8%
OTHER RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION	3	1,512	25.6%
OTHER	4	1,212	20.5%

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.

Around 38% 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 14% of all teachers in NT schools.

The ratio of student to teacher in Independent schools now sits in the middle of the three school sectors.



520

**NUMBER OF TEACHERS
FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT
IN 2025**



627

**NUMBER OF TEACHERS
HEADCOUNT IN 2025**



1,313

**NUMBER OF TEACHING AND
NON-TEACHING STAFF
HEADCOUNT IN 2025**

TEACHERS IN NT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS BY GENDER AND LEVEL 2025



PRIMARY TEACHERS

16.6% (36)

MALE

83.4% (180)

FEMALE



SECONDARY TEACHERS

42.7% (130)

MALE

57.3% (175)

FEMALE

NT STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIOS BY SCHOOL LEVEL 2005-2025

	PRIMARY SCHOOLS			SECONDARY SCHOOLS		
	GOVERNMENT	CATHOLIC	INDEPENDENT	GOVERNMENT	CATHOLIC	INDEPENDENT
2005	13.6	16.9	16.4	11.6	10.8	10.0
2010	12.2	15.2	16.5	11.0	10.9	10.3
2015	13.0	15.1	15.9	11.9	10.7	10.4
2020	11.8	12.9	13.7	11.8	10.6	10.5
2025	10.8	12.3	12.2	10.6	11.9	10.8

NT STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIOS (AVERAGE) 2025



INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

11.4 to 1



GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

10.7 to 1



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

12.1 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 2023-24, or for the calendar year 2024. Due to data availability, capital expenditure by source has been used instead of capital income, as was the case in previous snapshots. Unless otherwise specified, student enrolment figures are full-time equivalent.

Produced by Independent Schools Australia.

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