

The Great Education Shift

Why Australian families are choosing Independent schools.



Parent insights on school choice, household commitment and education policy.

INDEPENDENT
SCHOOLS
AUSTRALIA



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Parents are choosing.
Policy should reflect that reality.



A new picture of Australian school choice

Parents do not choose a sector. They choose a school. They look for the school they believe will best support their child academically, socially and personally, and then decide whether they can make that choice work for their family. This simple reality is too often lost in national debates that begin with systems, labels and funding formulas rather than with students, families and learning.

This report starts somewhere different. It brings together official data on Independent schools and national research with current and prospective parents to examine how families make these decisions. What emerges is a Great Education Shift: more families are choosing Independent schools, making substantial financial commitments and expecting policy to reflect the choices they are already making.

The shift is behavioural, not rhetorical. Families are looking for strong learning, safety, clear expectations, wellbeing, character and values. They build confidence through a school's reputation, conversations with other parents, visits and direct contact with teachers and staff. In other words, they choose particular schools because of what they believe those schools will offer their child.

Those decisions are being made under real pressure. Families contribute heavily to the cost of Independent schooling. Many plan for years, adjust household budgets and give up other spending to sustain their choice. Their commitment is substantial, but it should not be mistaken for limitless capacity. Affordability is a significant concern for both schools and families.

Independent schools are more diverse than public caricatures suggest, as are the families who choose them. There is no single school type, income story, cultural profile or political allegiance. Language that treats these families as a uniform or privileged bloc does not reflect reality and makes constructive policy harder.

School funding is complex and often poorly explained. Parents should not need to master every formula to express a clear view about fairness. Their principles are straightforward: recognise every student, respect the school choices families make, and keep public support predictable.

I hope this report helps move the national conversation closer to the lives of students and families. **Parents are choosing. Policy should reflect reality.**

Graham Catt
CEO, Independent Schools Australia

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Great Education Shift in five findings

Parents are choosing. Policy should reflect that reality.

1.

Parents are voting with their feet

2.

Families invest heavily in education. Independent schools contribute

3.

Families make real sacrifices

4.

Choice strengthens the education system

5.

Policy should reflect reality

Independent schools now educate 767,712 students across 1,240 schools. Enrolments grew by approximately 3.0 per cent nationally in 2025, continuing a long-term trend. Behind that growth are hundreds of thousands of individual decisions by parents choosing the school they believe is right for their child.

Parents are voting with their feet

Their decisions reflect a combination of academic quality, safety, discipline, wellbeing, values and fit. They build confidence through reputation, recommendations, school visits and direct contact with staff. The decision is school-specific: parents choose a school, not a sector.

Families invest heavily in education, and Independent schools contribute

Families and school communities contributed \$11.2 billion in 2024, meeting 51.8 per cent of the total cost of Independent schooling. AEC Group estimated that Independent schools contributed \$45.69 billion to Australian GDP in 2023–24 and supported 264,360 full-time-equivalent jobs. This shared investment sustains educational capacity and wider economic activity.

Families make real sacrifices

Cost of living is the dominant public concern among respondents. Fifty-seven per cent have saved specifically for school fees for at least three years, and 75 per cent have adjusted household budgets to afford current fees. The issue is not whether families value their choice, but whether rising costs will put it beyond reach for more of them.

Choice strengthens the education system

Independent schools educate about one in six Australian students and include metropolitan, regional and remote schools; faith-based and non-faith schools; boarding schools; special schools; Special Assistance Schools; and majority Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander schools. Australia's schooling system is stronger when government, Catholic and Independent schools all contribute—adding capacity, diversity and options for students with different needs.

Policy should reflect reality

Ninety-one per cent of respondents say government funding should support families' ability to choose the school that best meets their child's needs. Eighty-six per cent say every student deserves some government funding towards their education. Policy should build on the strengths of Australia's schooling system by recognising every student, respecting parents' choices and describing schools and families accurately.

Source: AEC Group analysis commissioned by Independent Schools Australia; 2023–24 financial year.

NARRATIVE MAP

What we mean by The Great Education Shift

A behavioural change in the relationship between families, schools and policy

1.

Parents are voting with their feet

2.

Families invest heavily in education. Independent schools contribute

3.

Families make real sacrifices

4.

Choice strengthens the education system

5.

Policy should reflect reality

The Great Education Shift is a change in societal behaviour as more parents actively choose Independent schools, committing substantial resources and expecting policymakers to recognise the decisions they make.

School education is a journey that begins with a child and a school choice. That choice becomes a long-term household commitment. Across hundreds of thousands of families, those decisions add capacity and diversity to Australian schooling and support employment, infrastructure and wider economic activity.

Policy should reflect that reality by recognising every student and respecting parents' choices.

This report follows that journey—from family choice to national contribution and the policy response it requires.



1.

Parents are voting with their feet

PARENTS ARE VOTING WITH THEIR FEET

Independent school growth reflects hundreds of thousands of family decisions

Independent schooling is no longer a marginal or niche choice. It is an important, substantial and growing component of Australian education, shaped by the decisions of families in communities across the country.

Nationally, parents are choosing. Independent schools educate 767,712 students across 1,240 schools; around one in six Australian students overall and one in five secondary students. In 2025, Independent school enrolments grew by approximately 3.0 per cent and, as in each of the previous eight years, growth exceeded that in government and Catholic schools.

These figures are more than abstract measures of sector growth. Each enrolment represents a family choosing a particular school because its approach, culture, values or opportunities are right for their child. Families visit schools, compare what they offer and commit to the option they believe will work best.

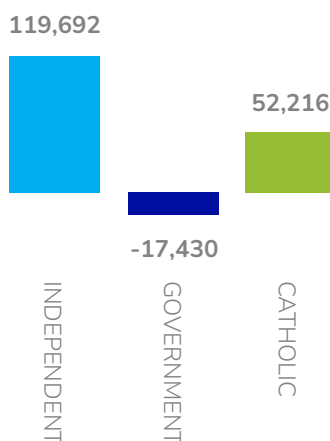
National growth is the combined result of those local, personal choices. It is an important, substantial and growing component of Australian education, shaped by the decisions of families in communities across the country.

Source: ISA Snapshot 2026.

1,240
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOLS



ADDITIONAL ENROLMENTS 2020-2025



ONE IN FIVE SECONDARY STUDENTS
ATTEND AN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL



WHY PARENTS CHOOSE

1.

Parents are voting with their feet

Parents choose a school, not a sector

The decision combines quality, safety, expectations, wellbeing, values and fit.

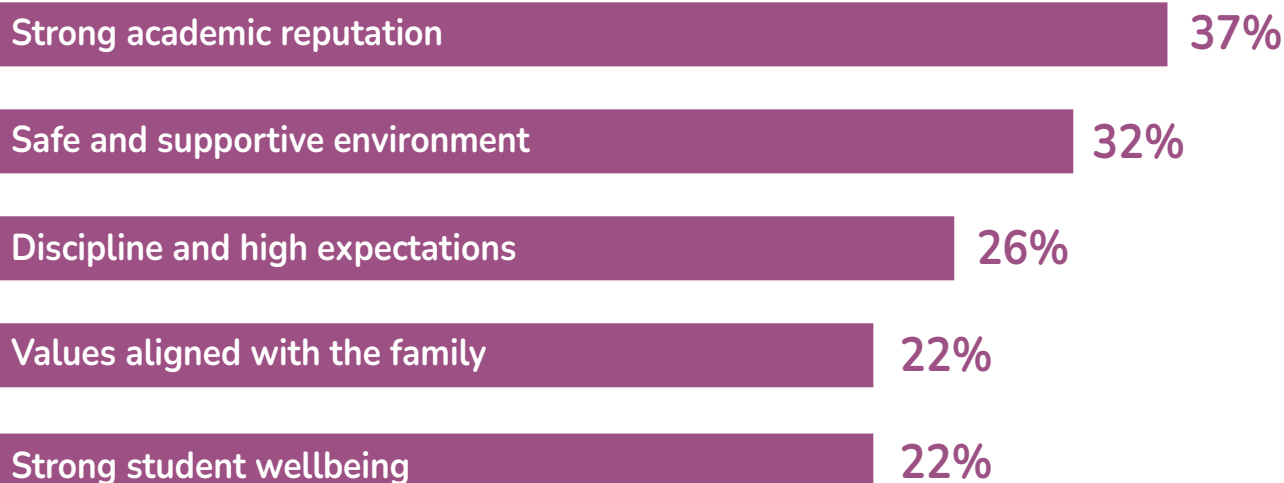
Parents generally do not approach school choice based on sector. They ask a far more personal question: which school is most likely to meet my child's unique needs?

The strongest reasons given for choosing an Independent school are:

- Strong academic reputation — 37%
- Safe and supportive environment — 32%
- Discipline and high expectations — 26%
- Values aligned with the family — 22%
- Strong student wellbeing — 22%

When asked to nominate only one reason, 17 per cent select academic reputation, making it the leading response. However, no single factor dominates. Parents are making a complex judgement that incorporates learning, culture, care and fit. The high importance placed on values alignment reinforces that point: 96 per cent say the alignment between school and family values is important.

Family history, tradition and personal connection can influence school choice. But the strongest reasons parents gave in this research were practical and child-centred: learning, safety, expectations, wellbeing, values and fit. They are seeking the environment they believe will help their child learn, feel safe and develop well.



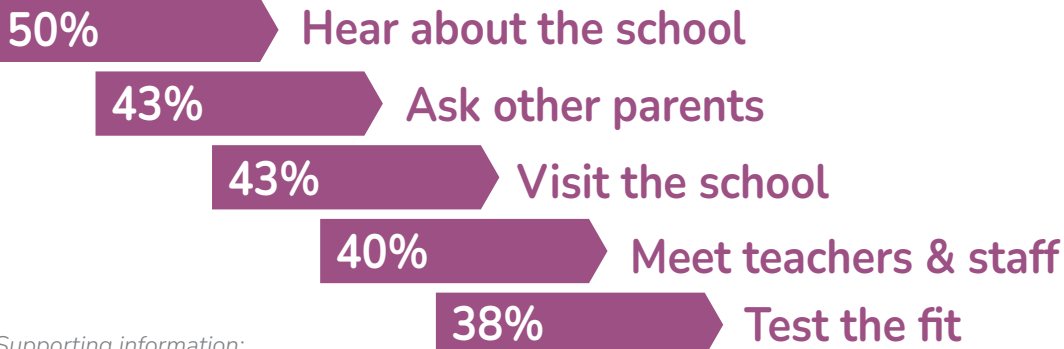
96% say alignment between school and family values is important

1.

Parents are voting with their feet

HOW PARENTS DECIDE

Confidence is built through reputation and direct experience.



Supporting information:

- NAPLAN results **20%**
- My School information **18%**

Families move from awareness to trust.

Why a school appeals and how a family becomes confident enough to choose it are related but different questions. The research shows that confidence is built through community reputation, recommendations, school visits and direct contact with staff.

Community reputation is the most influential source of confidence, cited by 50 per cent of respondents. Recommendations from other parents and school tours follow at 43 per cent each. Direct conversations with teachers or staff influence 40 per cent, and online research influences 38 per cent.

Parents choose people, places and educational environments they trust.

Publicly available information also has a role, but it is less influential than trusted testimony and first-hand experience. NAPLAN results influence 20 per cent of respondents and My School information influences 18 per cent.

Trust builds in stages. Reputation puts a school on the shortlist; visits and conversations allow families to test its culture; direct experience turns interest into confidence.

That is why the debate about school choice cannot be understood only through system labels or funding categories.



WHAT FAMILIES SEEK AND EXPERIENCE

1.

Parents are voting with their feet

Experience and outcomes reinforce the choice.

Parents want character and achievement; children need safety, enjoyment and belonging.

Parents do not define educational success narrowly. The key things they want children to gain from school are good character and values at 34 per cent, achievement at a net 33 per cent and confidence at 28 per cent.

Preparation for life beyond school and critical thinking matter.

When parents consider what matters most to children day to day, their priorities are different. The key priorities parents identify for their children are a safe environment at 47 per cent, enjoyable learning at 46 per cent and friends and social belonging at 45 per cent.

Supportive teachers, activities and opportunities, and a sense of fit also feature strongly.

WHAT PARENTS WANT

- Good character and values — 34%
- Achievement — 33% (net)
- Confidence — 28%
- Preparation for life beyond school
- Critical thinking

Parents are not choosing between academic and personal development; they want both.

WHAT CHILDREN ARE SEEN TO WANT

- Safe environment — 47%
- Enjoyable learning — 46%
- Friends and social belonging — 45%
- Supportive teachers
- Activities and opportunities
- Sense of fit

These expectations help explain why school choice counts. Parents seek an environment that will deliver both long-term development and a positive daily experience for their child.

Parents generally rate their chosen schools positively in terms of attributes that influenced their original choice. These parent assessments are not independent measures of performance, but they do show that lived experience supports their choice.

Families believe their school is delivering on the qualities that matter to them.



2.

Families invest heavily in education. Independent schools contribute.

FAMILIES INVEST HEAVILY

Families invest heavily in education

Shared investment supports students, school choice and national capacity.



Families and school communities make a substantial contribution to Independent schooling. In 2024, they contributed \$11.2 billion, meeting 51.8 per cent of its total cost nationally.

The median annual fee across all Independent schools was approximately \$6,060 p.a.

Both government funding and family funding combine as part of an educational partnership. Public support recognises that educating every child is a public good. Families and school communities add substantial resources as investment in their child and the school they have chosen.

That shared investment supports more than an individual household choice. It helps educate one in six Australian students and funds the people, facilities and programs that add capacity to Australia's schooling system.

Source: ISA Snapshot 2026.

Parents and communities contributed over half (51.8%) of all Independent school funding (recurrent and capital combined).



**FAMILIES CONTRIBUTED
\$11.2 BILLION**
(RECURRENT AND CAPITAL)
TO INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN 2024



**AN ESTIMATED SAVING OF
\$9.3 BILLION**
TO GOVERNMENTS



MEDIAN ANNUAL FEE
FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN 2024
\$6,060

THE CONTRIBUTION EXTENDS BEYOND THE SCHOOL GATE

2.

Families invest heavily in education. Independent schools contribute.

Independent schools support jobs, household income, infrastructure and national capacity

Families choose individual schools for what they offer their children. Collectively, those choices sustain a national network that employs staff, purchases goods and services, invests in buildings and infrastructure, and contributes to local communities.

Separate analysis by AEC Group, commissioned by Independent Schools Australia, estimates that Independent schools contributed **\$45.69 billion to Australian GDP in 2023–24**. This included **\$16.33 billion** generated directly through school operations, capital investment and international student activity, and a further **\$29.36 billion** through flow-on activity across the economy.

The analysis also estimated that Independent schools supported **264,360 full-time-equivalent jobs** and generated **\$29.51 billion in household income**. In addition, it estimated **\$12.51 billion in savings to governments and taxpayers: \$9.91 billion** in recurrent education costs and **\$2.60 billion** through privately funded school infrastructure.

These figures highlight the economic and societal benefits of a shared investment in education by governments and communities. Schools employ people, invest in facilities, purchase goods and services and add capacity to Australian education.

With a return on investment of around 4.5 to 1 dollar, Independent schooling is far from a cost to taxpayers.

\$45.69 billion

contribution to GDP

264,360 full-time-equivalent jobs

\$29.51 billion in household income

\$12.51 billion in estimated savings to governments and taxpayers

The savings estimated by AEC Group on page 9 differ to the savings presented on page 8 (\$9.3 billion) for the following reasons:

- Savings on capital expenditure are included in the \$12.51 billion figure, but not in the \$9.3 billion figure.
- The \$9.3 billion figure is estimated based on the latest Productivity Commission and enrolment data.

2.

Families invest heavily in education. Independent schools contribute.

HOW THE FUNDING PARTNERSHIP WORKS

Funding should be explained from the student outwards.

The model is complex, but the principles are clear.

School funding is complex and often poorly explained. A clear explanation should focus on students and learners, not with sector comparisons.

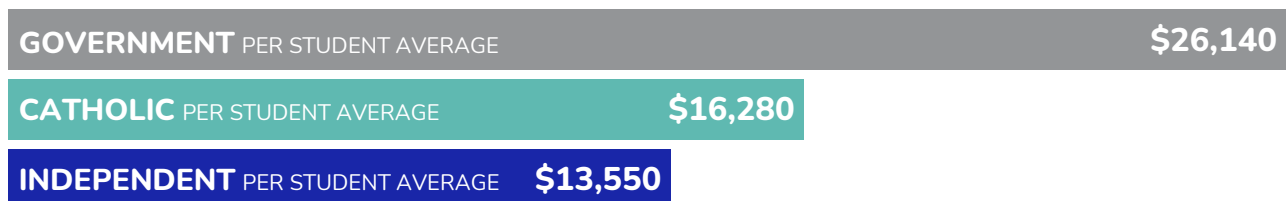
Average government recurrent funding is approximately \$26,140 per student in government schools, \$16,280 in Catholic schools and \$13,550 in Independent schools. Within Independent schools, the public contribution varies substantially according to student need and the Capacity to Contribute (CTC) measure. The CTC measure estimates a non-government school community's capacity to contribute to school operating costs based on parents' income data. Schools whose communities/families have a lower capacity receive more government funding per student and those with a higher capacity receive less.

The research shows why clearer public explanation is needed. Forty-five per cent of respondents had not heard of Capacity to Contribute, and **51 per cent** were unaware of the approximate funding difference between students in government and Independent schools.

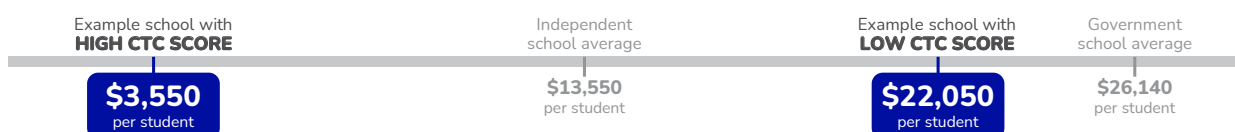
Understanding the school funding model should not be a test imposed on parents. Governments, policymakers and education organisations share responsibility for explaining how it works, how public funding varies according to student need and sector, and how policy changes affect schools, students and family budgets.

Once the practical context is clear, the research shows broad support for straightforward principles: recognise every student, respect parental choice and maintain the value of public support as schooling costs rise.

AVERAGE GOVERNMENT RECURRENT FUNDING PER STUDENT FY 2023-24



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.



FAMILIES MAKE REAL SACRIFICES

3.

Families make
real sacrifices

The commitment spans many years,
and is felt across the household budget.

Cost of living is the dominant concern among respondents. Sixty-six per cent nominate it as the most important issue they want government to address, and 53 per cent say they are currently under a great deal or quite a lot of financial pressure.

66% said cost of living is the most important issue

53% are under significant financial pressure

Families are making school decisions within the same economic conditions affecting the wider community.

For many families, planning for school fees begins years before enrolment. Fifty-seven per cent say they have saved specifically for fees for at least three years, including 10 per cent who have saved for more than a decade.

57% saved for 3+ years

10% saved for more than a decade

75% adjusted household budgets to afford current fees

49% Reduced holiday spending

28% Cut essentials

48% Cut non-essential spending

18% Reduced housing costs

These are real trade-offs that affect how families live, save and plan. The evidence shows how strongly families value their chosen school. It also shows that the financial commitment to education is not unlimited.

3.

Families make
real sacrifices

AFFORDABILITY IS THE PRESSURE POINT

Families value school choice, but will rising costs limit options?

Financial pressure is both a future
and immediate challenge for many.

Around two-thirds of families are concerned about possible fee increases in 2027, including **32 per cent** who are very concerned. The depth of concern varies, but it is spread widely enough to make affordability a central issue rather than a niche complaint.

If fees increased by more than **10 per cent**, **27 per cent** say they would cut essentials further and **18 per cent** would reduce housing costs. Changes in school costs, public funding and regulation ultimately affect household budgets and school accessibility.

What parents think
is driving fees up

- 62%** Inflation / running costs
- 44%** Higher staffing wages
- 36%** Buildings and facilities
- 34%** Technology requirements
- 34%** Reduced government funding
- 33%** Higher compliance and regulation costs

What families would cut if
fees rose by more than 10%

- 52%** Cut holiday expenditure
- 49%** Cut non-essential spending
- 27%** Cut essentials
- 18%** Reduce housing costs
- 12%** Move child/ren to a public school
- 21%** No change needed

Affordability matters not only to individual families but to the future shape of Australia's schooling system. Demand for Independent schools is growing. Yet if public funding does not keep pace with costs—or if a school's Capacity to Contribute score rises and its government contribution falls—fees will increase. Higher fees can narrow the mix of families able to enrol and may place further upward pressure on the school's Capacity to Contribute score. This creates a risk of a self-reinforcing cycle of lower public support, higher fees and reduced accessibility.

Policy should therefore consider the combined effect on household budgets, enrolment diversity, school viability and the capacity of Australia's schooling system.

CHOICE STRENGTHENS THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

4.

Choice strengthens the education system

Diverse schools add capacity, reach and educational options

One of Australia's strengths is its distinctive schooling system, in which government, Catholic and Independent schools all contribute to educating Australian children and receive government funding to do so. That diversity gives families options, adds capacity and allows schools to respond to different communities and student needs.

Across 1,240 schools, they include metropolitan, regional and remote schools; faith-based and non-faith schools; boarding schools; special schools; Special Assistance Schools; and majority Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander schools.

Together, they serve students and communities with widely differing needs.

1,240 schools
767,712 students
145 boarding schools
159 special / special assistance schools
22,538 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
187,300 students with disability

Independent School Locations

66.2% major cities
30.2% regional
3.6% remote

Diverse

Inclusive

Remote & Regional



4.

Choice strengthens
the education
system

NO SINGLE SCHOOL. NO SINGLE FAMILY. NO SINGLE VOTING COHORT.

Parents are voting with their feet in education, and choosing at the ballot box

The diversity of families choosing Independent schools is as important as the diversity of the schools themselves. Fee levels vary widely, with around six in ten surveyed families currently paying fees below \$20,000 per child, and **53 per cent** say they are under substantial cost-of-living pressure. Around **60 per cent** of families are low to middle income earners.

Political attitudes are also diverse. In the 2026 survey.

- **41 per cent** say they currently vote Labor
- **25 per cent** Coalition
- **17 per cent** One Nation
- **17 per cent** for other parties or independents combined.

These figures are not a national election forecast. They show that current and prospective parents choosing Independent schools cannot be treated as a predictable political bloc.

Comparison with the previous ISA polling is indicative due to sample frame changes. Even so, the movement is substantial: Labor rose from **34 to 41 per cent**, the Coalition fell from **37 to 25 per cent**, One Nation rose from **5 to 17 per cent**, and other parties and independents fell from **24 to 17 per cent**.

Fee levels, financial pressure and voting intention are different measures and should not be conflated. But they point to the same broader conclusion: families choosing Independent schools are not a single economic or political type.

Those who use the language of elite or wealthy schools do so at their peril. **Forty-nine per cent** of parents say they would be less likely to vote for a representative who used that description.

49% Say they would be less likely to vote for a representative who described private or Independent schools as mainly for the wealthy or elite.

POLICY SHOULD REFLECT REALITY

4.

Choice strengthens the education system

Recognise every student, respect school choice, and keep affordability front of mind

When questions about school funding or policy are framed as practical principles rather than complex processes or differences between sectors, parents expressed clear views. **Ninety-one per cent** say it is important that government funding supports families' ability to choose the school that best meets their child's needs. **Eighty-six per cent** agree that every student, whatever school they attend, deserves some government funding toward their education.

Affordability matters. When parents were given context about the relationship between public funding, school costs and fees, **76 per cent** agreed that public support should keep pace with rising costs to help limit pressure on fees. The same proportion also supported continuing a program like the Choice and Affordability Fund beyond 2029.

These findings don't translate to demands for a blank cheque. They do support a straightforward standard: that the public contribution for each Australian student should remain predictable and meaningful as the cost of schooling rises, and that programs to help keep choice accessible should not end without a clear plan for their evolution.

For policymakers this translates to five key things:

1. Recognise every student; respect that parents choose schools, not sectors;
2. Keep affordability in view when funding and regulation change;
3. Explain the funding model clearly; and
4. Use language that reflects the diversity of schools and families rather than stereotypes.

91% Say government funding should support families' ability to choose the school that best meets their child's needs

86% Agree every student deserves some government funding towards their education

76% Agree public support should keep pace with rising costs to help limit pressure on fees

76% Support continuing a fund like the Choice and Affordability Fund beyond 2029

5.

Policy should reflect reality

NATIONAL POLICY, LOCAL IMPACT

School choice and affordability matter in electorates across Australia

This report began with an observation: national schooling debates too often focus on systems, labels and funding rather than students, families and learning.

Electorate data helps make the scale and local consequences visible. These are not abstract sector numbers. They are students attending schools, parents managing household budgets and communities relying on a diverse schooling system.

Independent schools and families that choose them are located in electorates across Australia. Mapping schools and enrolments by federal electorate shows where national decisions are felt locally: changes to funding, regulation and affordability affect students, schools and communities.

For policymakers, the test is straightforward. Does a decision place the student at the centre? Does it respect the school-level choices families make? Does it add avoidable pressure to affordability? Does it strengthen the capacity of Australian schooling as a whole?

The conclusion of this report is equally straightforward: parents are voting with their feet; families invest heavily in education and Independent schools contribute; families make real sacrifices; choice strengthens the education system; and policy should reflect reality.

Electorates with the most Independent school students

Rank	Commonwealth Electoral	# of school campuses	# of schools	# of students (FTE)
1	Kooyong	28	22	16331.2
2	Wentworth	21	17	15332.9
3	Bradfield	24	20	14838.9
4	Berowra	18	17	13797.2
5	Curtin	19	17	12478.8
6	Warringah	19	12	11887.9
7	Watson	19	17	11481
8	McPherson	13	12	11398.2
9	Werriwa	11	11	10619
10	Reid	12	11	9918
11	Fairfax	14	14	9799
12	Forde	14	14	9732.5
13	Canberra	11	8	9529
14	Rankin	15	11	9006.8
15	Adelaide	24	21	8922
16	Spence	15	13	8705.8
17	Burt	17	13	8470
18	La Trobe	16	14	8267.1
19	Isaacs	13	11	8213.6
20	Calwell	10	7	8194
21	Mackellar	21	18	7536.5
22	Hawke	12	10	7448.2
23	Chisholm	12	11	7335.3
24	Goldstein	16	13	7308.4
25	Swan	15	13	7122
26	Blair	15	14	6968.5
27	Makin	11	11	6903.8
28	Corio	14	9	6878.7
29	Moncrieff	10	9	6866.4
30	Macarthur	17	13	6821.5
31	Sturt	10	8	6760
32	Bruce	17	16	6708.7
33	Brisbane	15	14	6691.4
34	Petrie	11	10	6655.8
35	Chifley	11	10	6612
36	Blaxland	14	11	6557.4
37	Lalor	7	7	6497.6
38	Parramatta	9	9	6449
39	Boothby	15	11	6401
40	Deakin	11	11	6384.8
41	Richmond	19	16	6370.4
42	Hasluck	15	13	6366.9
43	Bowman	10	9	6284
44	Groom	15	13	6250
45	Longman	13	12	6197
46	Mayo	17	16	6083.4
47	Cowper	21	19	6076
48	Pearce	10	10	6036
49	Lindsay	9	9	5982.7
50	Brand	16	9	5924

ABOUT THE RESEARCH

5.

Policy should reflect reality

Methodology, source notes and caveats

This report combines data from the 2026 Independent Schools Australia Snapshot with national parent research conducted by Insightfully for Independent Schools Australia.

The parent research was conducted through a 17-minute online survey from 19 March to 6 April 2026. The total sample was n=1,508. It included n=629 current parents and immediate family members who contribute to fees, and n=879 prospective Independent school parents. Some respondents identified as both current and prospective. Respondents were registered voters.

The total margin of error is +/-2.5 percentage points at the 95 per cent confidence level. Indicative subgroup margins are +/-3.9 points for current parents and contributors and +/-3.3 points for prospective parents. Comparisons with 2025 research are indicative only because the 2026 sample frame changed to include immediate family fee

contributors. Voting-intention findings describe diversity within this sample and should not be presented as a national forecast.

The ISA Snapshot draws on the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian Government Department of Education, the Productivity Commission and the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority. Funding data is for financial year 2023-24 or calendar year 2024, as applicable; data on schools, students and staff is for 2025.

Independent Schools Australia, Economic Contribution of the Independent School Sector, analysis prepared by AEC Group, 2025; estimates relate to the 2023-24 financial year.

Unless otherwise stated, Independent schools includes independent Catholic schools. Some national datasets classify independent Catholic schools differently; this should be noted wherever comparisons are made.

SUMMARY SURVEY METHODOLOGY

n=1,508 total sample

19 March – 6 April 2026 fieldwork

17minute online survey

±2.5% margin of error

n=629 current parents / fee contributors

n=879 prospective parents

- respondents were registered voters;
- comparisons with 2025 are indicative only because the sample frame changed;
- voting intention findings are not a national forecast;
- Snapshot data comes from ABS, Australian Government Department of Education, Productivity Commission and ACARA.

ABOUT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA

Independent Schools Australia (ISA) is the national peak body for Independent schooling in Australia. ISA represents the sector on national issues and engages with the Australian Government, national agencies, media, key stakeholders and the wider Australian community.

Working with the eight state and territory Associations of Independent Schools (AIS), ISA represents **767,712 students**, across **1,240 schools** and a workforce of over **134,000 people**.

Independent schools are long-established partners in Australia's education system, alongside government and Catholic schools. They make a valuable contribution to society and the learning and wellbeing of Australian children.



<https://schoolchoicecounts.isa.edu.au/>