

# PUBLIC SAVINGS FROM NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*How non-government schools save taxpayers over \$4.5 billion a year.*



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- ▶ The recent debate on school funding is too often presented as a zero-sum game between different schools and unhelpfully tinged with appeals to envy and populism. The fundamentals of the mixed model of school provision remain strong, parents value choice and critically, the Australian taxpayer is much better off when non-government schools receive public funding. This report calculates these savings for all Australian non-government schools, both Catholic and Independent, for the year 2023 using publicly available datasets.
- ▶ The methodology adopts a two-step process which estimates the savings to government at present, and the savings that will be realised once all schools have transitioned to receiving their full funding entitlement under the funding formula in the *Australian Education Act 2013* (Cth) (the AEA).
- ▶ Step one calculates the base recurrent funding received by non-government schools, and compares this to the scenario where those students are educated in public schools and funded to the same *School Resourcing Standard* (SRS) methodology as determined by the *Australian Education Act 2013* (AEA). It shows that if all government and non-government schools received their full funding entitlement under the *Australian Education Act 2013*, savings to taxpayers would be \$6.31 billion each year in recurrent funding. These savings include \$2.04 billion for primary students and \$4.27 billion for secondary students. Catholic schools make up \$2.96 billion of these savings, and Independent schools \$3.35 billion.
- ▶ Step two accounts for the fact that many government schools are not yet receiving their full funding allocation. In this step, schools are not funded to their full SRS, but instead to merely the minimum percentage of their SRS, as outlined in bilateral agreements between Commonwealth and State/Territory governments. Under this model, non-government schools are shown to save taxpayers \$4.59 billion each year in recurrent funding.
- ▶ These two steps identify an upper and lower bound of savings. The lower bound reflecting estimated savings today, and the upper bound representing the savings to be realised when government and non-government schools are receiving their full funding entitlement under the AEA.
- ▶ This analysis seeks to further the research presented in [The Case for Catholic Schools: Volume 1](#), which identified that Catholic schools in NSW alone represent a \$500 million saving for taxpayers. This paper presents similar findings, though with an expanded scope that incorporates all non-government schools across Australia.
- ▶ These estimates do not include the savings in capital funding. Non-government schools typically cover over 90% of capital expenditure from private sources – around \$4.48 billion in 2022 (noting this amount only partially captures the costs of building new schools).
- ▶ This analysis demonstrates that the savings to the taxpayer flowing from government support to non-government schools is immense and the mixed model of school provision in Australia is a key strength of the current education policy landscape.

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# INTRODUCTION

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Australia has one of the largest non-government school sectors in the world. Thirty-six per cent of students attend a non-government school, more than double the OECD average<sup>1</sup>, and a clear strength of the Australian educational offering. Catholic schools make up the largest share of the non-government sector.

Over 200 years since the first Catholic school opened in Australia, there are now 1,764 Catholic schools educating 806,000 students and employing 109,000 staff.<sup>2</sup> Nearly 40% of Catholic schools are located outside major cities in regional, rural, and remote communities.

While the savings to governments from non-government schools are substantial, they have rarely been quantified, and attempts to do so have generally been contested or only partial in coverage.

The *National Catholic Education Commission* (NCEC) noted the contributions made by Catholic school communities in 2017 as being \$3.6 billion in fees and \$1.27 billion in capital funding.<sup>3</sup> *Independent Schools Australia* (ISA) have estimated taxpayer savings from independent schools (including independent Catholic schools) as \$5.5 billion in 2019.<sup>4</sup> In 2019, *Catholic Schools NSW* (CSNSW) commissioned modelling from EY which showed NSW Catholic schools saved governments \$500 million a year in recurrent funding.<sup>5</sup>

These estimates apply to particular sectors and regions rather than the entire Australian non-government school sector. One of the few attempts to do the latter comes from a team of researchers who put the nationwide savings in recurrent funding at \$1.1 billion a year.<sup>6</sup> This figure was subsequently adopted by the *UNSW Gonski Institute* in their research.<sup>7</sup>

As this report shows, the figure of \$1.1 billion is inaccurate, with the true figure being three to four times higher. This inaccuracy is due to the modelling relying on indirect proxies for non-government school funding entitlements<sup>8</sup>, rather than the actual figures as published by the Australian Department of Education.<sup>9</sup>

This report uses recently published, publicly available datasets to provide a transparent and timely estimate of the taxpayer savings from non-government schools.

# METHODOLOGY: STEP 1

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The net savings to governments in recurrent funding from non-government schools can be calculated using publicly available datasets. Such savings are calculated by looking at the *base* recurrent funding received by non-government schools, and comparing this to the scenario where those students are at public schools and funded to the same *School Resourcing Standard* (SRS) methodology.

For context, the SRS is an estimate of the funding a school requires to meet the educational needs of its students. It includes a *base* amount for each student, and up to six needs-based *loadings* for student priority cohorts and disadvantaged schools.

In 2023, the SRS *Base funding amount per student* was \$13,048 for primary students and \$16,397 for secondary students.<sup>10</sup>

Non-government schools are expected to cover 10% to 80% of this base amount themselves, typically depending on the income levels of the parents at that school. This contribution by parents is referred to as the school's *Capacity to Contribute* (CtC). Each non-government school is given a CtC score<sup>11</sup>, which is used to determine the portion (between 10% and 80%) of the base SRS they cover through school fees or other private sources.

A school's *Capacity to Contribute* can be viewed as the amount of the money the school saves governments in recurrent funding. It can be calculated using three data sources:

- *SRS Base* amount per student;
- *Capacity to Contribute score* per school; and
- *Enrolments* per school.

The precise formula for calculating each school's CtC is:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\% \text{ of Primary SRS Base} \times \text{SRS Base Funding per Primary Student} \times \text{No. of Primary Students}) \\ & + (\% \text{ of Secondary SRS Base} \times \text{SRS Base Funding per Secondary Student} \\ & \times \text{No. of Secondary Students}) \end{aligned}$$

Adding up the CtCs across all non-government schools in Australia yields the total savings to taxpayers in recurrent funding.

The limitation of this methodology is that many government and non-government schools are not receiving the exact amount of funding to which they are entitled under the AEA. Rather, they are on a transition pathway towards full funding. Step 2 of this paper's methodology incorporates this transition pathway and adjusts the calculations accordingly. Step 1 demonstrates the upper bound of savings, which would be realised were all schools funded according to the funding formula in the AEA.

Note this total excludes the following:

- Non-government special schools, which teach students with disability, and are entitled to 100% of the base SRS amount in government funding.
- Non-government schools where the majority of students are indigenous, which are entitled to 100% of the base SRS amount in government funding.
- Loadings, as governments transfer these amounts to non-government schools in full.

## FINDINGS: STEP 1

Using the methodology defined in the previous section shows that non-government schools save taxpayers \$6.31 billion each year in recurrent funding. This is equivalent to avoiding a 9% increase in government recurrent funding of all schools, or a 30% increase in government recurrent funding of private schools.<sup>12</sup>

The savings are almost evenly split between sectors. Catholic schools make up \$2.96 billion of these savings, and Independent schools \$3.35 billion. While Catholic schools enrol more students<sup>13</sup>, Independent schools tend to enrol students from higher-income families<sup>14</sup>, thus attracting relatively smaller government contributions per student.

**Table 1: Government Savings in Recurrent Funding from non-government schools, by Sector and State/Territory (2023 estimate)**

State/Territory	Catholic	Independent	Total
NSW	\$1,042,803,539	\$1,062,669,891	\$2,105,473,430
VIC	\$696,740,984	\$917,757,095	\$1,614,498,080
QLD	\$601,442,653	\$618,093,911	\$1,219,536,564
WA	\$304,477,179	\$376,545,393	\$681,022,572
SA	\$144,303,626	\$213,292,651	\$357,596,277
ACT	\$116,328,938	\$92,072,676	\$208,401,614
TAS	\$39,765,804	\$38,973,318	\$78,739,122
NT	\$13,868,913	\$28,129,713	\$41,998,627
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,959,731,637</b>	<b>\$3,347,534,648</b>	<b>\$6,307,266,285</b>

These savings include \$2.04 billion for primary students and \$4.27 billion for secondary students. While non-government schools enrol similar numbers of primary and secondary students<sup>15</sup>, the cost of educating the latter is higher.<sup>16</sup>

**Table 2: Government Savings in Recurrent Funding from non-government schools, by Primary/Secondary students and State/Territory (2023 estimate)**

State/Territory	Primary students	Secondary students	Total
NSW	\$705,618,919	\$1,399,854,511	\$2,105,473,430
VIC	\$505,706,253	\$1,108,791,827	\$1,614,498,080
QLD	\$388,291,002	\$831,245,562	\$1,219,536,564
WA	\$204,251,503	\$476,771,070	\$681,022,572
SA	\$120,398,065	\$237,198,212	\$357,596,277
ACT	\$72,669,391	\$135,732,223	\$208,401,614
TAS	\$25,266,166	\$53,472,956	\$78,739,122
NT	\$13,966,124	\$28,032,502	\$41,998,627
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,036,167,423</b>	<b>\$4,271,098,863</b>	<b>\$6,307,266,285</b>

(Note these estimates are calculated using 2022 enrolment figures, and thus yield smaller figures than would apply to 2023.)

## METHODOLOGY: STEP 2

The methodology used in Step 1 to calculate recurrent funding savings assumes schools are funded to 100% of their SRS. This is the target the Commonwealth, State, and Territory governments are aiming to achieve, and therefore the best way to consider long-term, structural budgetary impacts.

However, as discussed, the figure of \$6.31 billion represents an upper bound of savings that will be realised once schools are fully funded according to the AEA. To identify estimated, realised savings, an additional step is needed which incorporates the transition pathways towards full funding. To achieve this, Step 2 assumes schools are funded to the *minimum* percentage of their SRS, as outlined in various bilateral agreements between commonwealth and state or territory governments.

That is, while in the long-term state and territory governments have begun transitioning to funding 80% of the SRS of their public schools (with the Commonwealth government agreeing to fund the other 20%), in the short-term most state and territory governments have only agreed to fund a share lower than that 80%. These minimum funding contributions are outlined below.

**Table 3: Minimum funding contributions to Public Schools from State/Territory Governments as a percentage of the School Resourcing Standard (Base)**

State/Territory	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
NSW <sup>17</sup>	70.7	70.8	71.1	71.4	71.8	72.2	72.7
VIC <sup>18</sup>	67.8	68.0	68.4	69.0	69.7	70.4	70.4
QLD <sup>19</sup>	69.3	69.3	69.3	69.3	69.3	69.3	70.5
WA <sup>20</sup>	84.4	80.6	77.6	75.5	75.0	75.0	75.0
SA <sup>21</sup>	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0
TAS <sup>22</sup>	72.9	73.2	73.4	73.6	73.9	74.1	74.3
ACT <sup>23</sup>	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0
NT <sup>24</sup>	55.2	56.0	57.0	58.0	58.5	59.0	59.0

The Commonwealth government agreed to fully fund their 20% contribution for all public schools by 2023<sup>25</sup>. While the percentage contributions in 2018 and 2022 are known,<sup>26</sup> the equivalent figures in the interim years 2019-2021 have not been released. As such, this analysis assumes it transitions linearly according to Australian Education Act 2013, as outlined in the table below.

**Table 4: Minimum funding contributions to Public Schools from Commonwealth Government as a percentage of the School Resourcing Standard (Base)**

State/Territory	2018	2019*	2020*	2021*	2022	2023*	2024*
NSW	17.9	18.3	18.7	19.2	19.6	20.0	20.0
VIC	17.2	17.8	18.3	18.9	19.5	20.0	20.0
QLD	18.1	18.5	18.9	19.2	19.6	20.0	20.0
WA	15.3	16.2	17.2	18.1	19.1	20.0	20.0
SA	16.6	17.3	18.0	18.6	19.3	20.0	20.0
TAS	19.3	19.4	19.6	19.7	19.9	20.0	20.0
ACT	16.7	17.4	18.0	18.7	19.4	20.0	20.0
NT	23.5	23.1	22.7	22.3	21.9	21.6	21.4

\* Estimate based on linear trend from 2018 to 2022 and Australian Education Act 2013 methodology.

Currently, non-government schools are also not funded at 100% of their SRS (they will be by 2029 based on the agreed transition pathways). The percentage of funding they do receive varies by state, sector, and individual school, and are not publicly available. As such, this step of the analysis makes a simplifying assumption that they are currently funded at 100% of SRS.

## FINDINGS: STEP 2

The tables below show the additional costs to governments in recurrent funding if public schools were to educate all non-government school students in 2023, but only to the minimum levels of funding agreed to for that year (and with the simplifying assumption that non-government schools are currently funded at 100% of their SRS).

**Table 5: Government Savings in Recurrent Funding from non-government schools, by Sector and State/Territory (2023 estimate), assuming minimum government contributions to SRS and non-government schools currently funded at full SRS**

State/Territory	Catholic	Independent	Total
NSW	\$743,479,537	\$850,957,682	\$1,594,437,218
VIC	\$402,948,279	\$694,617,515	\$1,097,565,794
QLD	\$355,927,343	\$401,949,037	\$757,876,380
WA	\$251,120,099	\$324,542,373	\$575,662,471
SA	\$107,876,788	\$175,511,905	\$283,388,693
ACT	\$116,328,938	\$92,072,676	\$208,401,614
TAS	\$25,880,244	\$30,378,036	\$56,258,280
NT	\$2,887,478	\$13,506,492	\$16,393,970
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,006,448,705</b>	<b>\$2,583,535,715</b>	<b>\$4,589,984,420</b>

**Table 6: Government Savings in Recurrent Funding from non-government schools, by Primary/Secondary students and State/Territory (2023 estimate), assuming minimum government contributions to SRS and non-government schools currently funded at full SRS**

State/Territory	Primary students	Secondary students	Total
NSW	\$485,099,992	\$1,109,337,226	\$1,594,437,218
VIC	\$285,061,427	\$812,504,367	\$1,097,565,794
QLD	\$188,679,062	\$569,197,318	\$757,876,380
WA	\$160,397,915	\$415,264,557	\$575,662,471
SA	\$86,607,523	\$196,781,169	\$283,388,693
ACT	\$72,669,391	\$135,732,223	\$208,401,614
TAS	\$15,408,619	\$40,849,661	\$56,258,280
NT*	\$3,023,747	\$13,370,223	\$16,393,970
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,296,947,676</b>	<b>\$3,293,036,744</b>	<b>\$4,589,984,420</b>

(Note these estimates are calculated using 2022 enrolment figures, and thus yield smaller figures than would apply to 2023.)

As can be seen, while this additional step leads to a lower figure for taxpayer savings than the \$6.31 billion outlined previously, it is still a substantial amount at \$4.59 billion a year in recurrent funding.

This analysis demonstrates that even when conservative assumptions are made, the taxpayer savings from non-government schools remain immense and will continue to grow each year as government schools get closer to their full share of SRS.



## CONCLUSION

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This paper presents a comprehensive answer to the question of public savings flowing from non-government schools in Australia through transparent and detailed analysis. As discussed above, on the basis of the most recent publicly available datasets, it is estimated non-government schools save taxpayers at least \$4.59 billion each year in recurrent funding. When all schools receive their full funding entitlement under the AEA, this figure will be \$6.31 billion.

The upper bound may over-estimate savings in the short-term, but better reflects the longer-term savings and structural budgetary impacts.

Studies published in 2015 and 2017 by the NSW Teachers Federation by Chris Bonnor and Bernie Shepherd found that non-government schools in Australia relieved governments of around \$2.2 billion in recurrent expenditure<sup>27</sup>, and in another report, no more than \$1.9 billion in recurrent expenditure.<sup>28</sup> These calculations support the fact that non-government schools reduce government expenditure.

In addition to savings in recurrent funding, non-government schools typically cover over 90% of capital expenditure from private sources – around \$4.48 billion in 2022 (noting this amount only partially captures the costs of building new schools).

This analysis demonstrates that the taxpayer savings from non-government schools are much higher than those estimates appearing in recent media, and are a major strength of Australia's education policies.

# APPENDIX I: SAVINGS IN CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

No discussion of taxpayer savings from private schools can be complete without considering capital funding.

Distinct from recurrent funding, capital funding makes up a substantial share of school expenditure. While governments make some contributions, non-government schools typically cover 90% of their capital expenditure from parents and other private sources.

Public savings in capital funding are difficult to estimate. In 2019 Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW) commissioned modelling from EY which showed NSW Catholic schools saved governments at least \$7.9 billion in additional capital expenditure. However, no national or cross-sector estimates have been made.

There are publicly available estimates of the contributions made by parents and other private sources to private school capital expenditure. However, to equate these figures with public savings makes assumptions that governments would share the same priorities in capital funding as private schools, and does not consider any economies of scale. Such assumptions may potentially *overestimate* the savings.

At the same time, limitations with available data may lead to *underestimating* the savings. The best publicly available dataset is the *MySchool*<sup>29</sup> dataset published by the *Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority* (ACARA). However, this data only partially captures the costs of building *new schools*.<sup>30</sup> *MySchool* reports on open schools only. As such, the capital expenditure reported against a school includes any construction costs from the year the school opens, but none from years prior (including the costs of land acquisition). Additionally, the most recent year of *MySchool* finance data is only 2022 – capital expenditure is likely to have substantially increased since then.

Nevertheless, while noting these limitations, it can be seen that in 2022, parents and other private sources<sup>31</sup> contributed \$4.48 billion in capital funding for non-government schools – not counting the full costs of building new schools. A breakdown of this expenditure by sector and region is shown below.

**Table 7: Capital Expenditure from private sources by non-government schools, by Sector and State/Territory (2022 estimate)**

State/Territory	Catholic	Independent	Total
NSW	\$564,133,334	\$768,889,883	\$1,333,023,217
VIC	\$637,429,385	\$673,314,879	\$1,310,744,264
QLD	\$306,379,156	\$495,346,288	\$801,725,444
SA	\$228,022,619	\$217,906,479	\$445,929,098
WA	\$136,693,798	\$245,805,774	\$382,499,572
TAS	\$46,864,846	\$45,199,436	\$92,064,282
ACT	\$36,601,755	\$52,392,073	\$88,993,828
NT	\$4,857,981	\$19,350,059	\$24,208,040
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,960,982,874</b>	<b>\$2,518,204,871</b>	<b>\$4,479,187,745</b>

## APPENDIX II: SAVINGS BY DIOCESE

The Catholic Church has 28 dioceses in Australia. Each diocese has its own schools office, which manages operations for *systemic* Catholic schools in the diocese (note *RI/MPJP* Catholic schools<sup>32</sup> are run independently of these offices). The following table summarises by diocese the savings to taxpayers in *recurrent* funding from Catholic schools, using Step #1 of the methodology where it is assumed schools are funded to 100% of SRS.

**Table 8: Government Savings in Recurrent Funding from Catholic schools, by Diocese (2023 estimate), assuming schools funded to 100% of their SRS**

Diocese	State	Primary students	Secondary students	Total
Melbourne	VIC	\$209,324,087	\$363,901,670	\$573,225,757
Brisbane	QLD	\$147,757,231	\$279,895,325	\$427,652,557
Sydney	NSW	\$132,081,792	\$142,632,034	\$274,713,826
Perth	WA	\$83,330,356	\$174,472,280	\$257,802,636
Adelaide	SA	\$48,391,642	\$85,930,415	\$134,322,057
Parramatta	NSW	\$52,235,969	\$77,055,194	\$129,291,163
Canberra-Goulburn	ACT/NSW	\$41,849,935	\$51,376,051	\$93,225,986
Broken Bay	NSW	\$47,315,112	\$32,888,597	\$80,203,708
Rockhampton	QLD	\$24,793,421	\$51,570,586	\$76,364,007
Maitland-Newcastle	NSW	\$26,759,266	\$41,943,733	\$68,702,998
Wollongong	NSW	\$23,908,544	\$34,346,268	\$58,254,812
Sale	VIC	\$16,306,379	\$27,440,031	\$43,746,410
Townsville	QLD	\$16,115,541	\$25,534,926	\$41,650,468
Ballarat	VIC	\$15,281,166	\$24,881,665	\$40,162,831
Sandhurst	VIC	\$15,343,441	\$24,262,545	\$39,605,986
Hobart	TAS	\$13,270,366	\$26,083,564	\$39,353,930
Lismore	NSW	\$14,280,640	\$23,349,405	\$37,630,046
Bunbury	WA	\$10,560,687	\$20,977,040	\$31,537,727
Cairns	QLD	\$11,207,473	\$19,057,390	\$30,264,863
Bathurst	NSW	\$10,759,396	\$15,277,580	\$26,036,976
Toowoomba	QLD	\$9,923,541	\$15,587,218	\$25,510,759
Wagga Wagga	NSW	\$7,742,909	\$13,100,167	\$20,843,076
Geraldton	WA	\$5,231,640	\$8,848,449	\$14,080,089
Darwin	NT	\$4,608,464	\$9,260,449	\$13,868,913
Armidale	NSW	\$6,006,568	\$4,866,767	\$10,873,335
Port Pirie	SA	\$4,507,514	\$5,474,055	\$9,981,569
Wilcannia-Forbes	NSW	\$2,370,071	\$-	\$2,370,071
Broome	WA	\$540,210	\$516,517	\$1,056,727
RI/MPJP schools		\$33,761,370	\$323,636,985	\$357,398,355
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,035,564,731</b>	<b>\$1,924,166,906</b>	<b>\$2,959,731,637</b>

# THE KATHLEEN BURROW RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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## Kathleen Burrow RESEARCH INSTITUTE

*This is a publication of the Kathleen Burrow Research Institute*

The Kathleen Burrow Research Institute is a research unit within Catholic Schools NSW that conducts and publishes research on contemporary issues in school education to promote the advancement of education in all school sectors in Australia. It aims to produce research that is intellectually rigorous, politically non-partisan and informed by the Catholic faith. As part of this mission, its research will promote and highlight the benefits of, and seek to dispel misconceptions about, Catholic education and related issues by going behind the headlines and beyond commonly held views.

The work of the Institute provides an evidence base to support Catholic Schools New South Wales in advocating for best practice in all schools, particularly in Catholic education, and to inform and engage with sector leaders and policy-makers.

### **About Kathleen Burrow**

Kathleen Burrow (1899-1987) had a strong presence in the history of Catholic education and the Catholic Church in the 20th century. From humble beginnings in NSW, she was educated at St Matthew's Convent of Mercy School in Mudgee and attended the University of Sydney. As a founding member of the University Catholic Women's Association, Kathleen began working as a teacher, focusing on physical education in schools and identifying a particular need for this at orphanages and disadvantaged schools. She would go on to establish the Graham-Burrow School of Physical Education.

Kathleen Burrow embodied much of what it means to be a Catholic educator, holding a deep faith as well as being a caring mentor, principled advocate, and superb communicator and organiser who 'promoted social harmony often among divergent groups'. She was President of the Legion of Catholic Women and the Australian Council of Catholic Women. Her outstanding example makes her an apposite patron of the Kathleen Burrow Research Institute.

# ENDNOTES

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<sup>1</sup> OECD (2018), 'Education at a glance: share of enrolment by type of institution (edition 2018)', <<https://doi.org/10.1787/64c7eb20-en>>

<sup>2</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2023), 'Schools'

<sup>3</sup> NCEC (2019), 'The Facts on School Funding in Australia',

<[https://www.ncec.catholic.edu.au/images/2019\\_NCEC\\_Facts\\_on\\_School\\_Funding.pdf](https://www.ncec.catholic.edu.au/images/2019_NCEC_Facts_on_School_Funding.pdf)>

<sup>4</sup> ISA (2019), 'Independent Schools Overview', <<http://isa.edu.au/about-independent-schools/about-independent-schools/independent-schools-overview/>>

<sup>5</sup> Catholic Schools NSW (2019), 'The Case for Catholic Schools Volume 1', <<https://www.csnw.catholic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/The-Case-for-Catholic-Schools-Volume-1.pdf>>

Note this analysis was conducted in 2018 and before the school funding model change from SES to DMI scores.

<sup>6</sup> Bonnor C., Wilson R., Kidson P., Greenwell, T. (2020), 'The school money-go-round: Balancing the claims about school funding', <<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rnn0w1nWYreOMRSsDfzt4n8KXHaGbw2h/view>>

<sup>7</sup> Bonnor C., Kidson P., Piccoli A., Sahlberg P., Wilson R. (2021), 'Structural Failure: Why Australia keeps falling short of our educational goals', <[https://www.gie.unsw.edu.au/sites/default/files/documents/Structural%20Failure\\_final.pdf](https://www.gie.unsw.edu.au/sites/default/files/documents/Structural%20Failure_final.pdf)>

<sup>8</sup> Bonnor et al. (2020) uses the *Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage* to estimate each school's entitlements to government funding. This metric does not take into account parents' income levels, and is not used to determine base funding for non-government schools.

<sup>9</sup> Australian Department of Education (2023), '2023 CTC scores for non-government schools', <<https://www.education.gov.au/school-funding/resources/2023-ctc-scores>>

<sup>10</sup> Australian Department of Education (2023) 'How is school funding indexed?'

<<https://www.education.gov.au/download/14587/how-school-funding-indexed/35933/document/docx>>

<sup>11</sup> Australian Department of Education (2023), '2023 CTC scores for non-government schools',

<<https://www.education.gov.au/school-funding/resources/2023-ctc-scores>>

<sup>12</sup> According to ACARA *MySchool* data, total government recurrent funding of schools was \$65,466,434,298 in 2022. Of this amount, \$19,889,797,891 was directed towards non-government schools. Applying the 2022-23 Base Funding Indexation Rate of 4.20% to these figures, yields \$68,216,024,539 and \$20,725,169,402 respectively. Given the taxpayer savings in recurrent funding from non-government schools are estimated as \$6.31 billion in 2023, this is equivalent to 9% of government recurrent funding for all schools, or 30% of government recurrent funding of non-government schools.

<sup>13</sup> According to Australian Bureau of Statistics figures for 2023, Catholic schools enrol 806,181 students and Independent schools enrol 666,154 students, <<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/latest-release>>.

<sup>14</sup> National School Resourcing Board (2018), 'Review of the socio-economic status score methodology', <<https://www.education.gov.au/download/4248/national-school-resourcing-board-ses-review-final-report/6329/document/pdf>>

<sup>15</sup> According to Australian Bureau of Statistics figures for 2023, non-government schools enrol 706,382 primary students and 765,952 secondary students, <<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/latest-release>>.

<sup>16</sup> In 2023, the base funding per student was \$13,049 for primary students and \$16,397 for secondary students.

<sup>17</sup> Australian Department of Education (2023), 'Bilateral Agreement between New South Wales and the Commonwealth on Quality Schools Reform', <<https://www.education.gov.au/download/4346/new-south-wales-bilateral-agreement/35966/extended-agreement/pdf>>

<sup>18</sup> Australian Department of Education (2023), 'Bilateral Agreement between Victoria and the Commonwealth on Quality Schools Reform', <<https://www.education.gov.au/download/4413/victoria-bilateral-agreement/35926/extended-agreement/pdf>>

<sup>19</sup> Australian Department of Education (2023), 'Bilateral Agreement between Queensland and the Commonwealth on Implementation of School Education Reform', <<https://www.education.gov.au/download/4409/queensland-bilateral-agreement/35915/extended-agreement/pdf>>

<sup>20</sup> Australian Department of Education (2023), 'Bilateral Agreement between Western Australia and the Commonwealth on Quality Schools Reform', <<https://www.education.gov.au/download/4379/western-australia-bilateral-agreement/35930/extended-agreement/pdf>>

<sup>21</sup> Australian Department of Education (2023), 'Bilateral Agreement between the South Australia and the Commonwealth on Quality Schools Reform', <<https://www.education.gov.au/download/4341/south-australia-bilateral-agreement/35918/extended-agreement/pdf>>

<sup>22</sup> Australian Department of Education (2023), 'Bilateral Agreement between Tasmania and the Commonwealth on Quality Schools Reform', <<https://www.education.gov.au/download/4391/tasmania-bilateral-agreement/35922/extended-agreement/pdf>>

<sup>23</sup> Australian Department of Education (2023), 'Bilateral Agreement between the Australian Capital Territory and the

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Commonwealth on Quality Schools Reform', <<https://www.education.gov.au/download/4400/australian-capital-territory-bilateral-agreement/35907/extended-agreement/pdf>>

<sup>24</sup> Australian Department of Education (2023), 'Bilateral Agreement between the Northern Territory and the Commonwealth on Quality Schools Reform', <<https://www.education.gov.au/download/4390/northern-territory-bilateral-agreement/36006/extended-agreement/pdf>>

<sup>25</sup> Australian Department of Education (2023), 'Schooling Resource Standard', <<https://www.education.gov.au/recurrent-funding-schools/schooling-resource-standard>>

<sup>26</sup> Australian Department of Education (2023), 'How much Australian Government funding is provided to schools in each state and territory?', <<https://www.education.gov.au/download/3869/how-much-australian-government-funding-provided-schools-each-state-and-territory/26810/how-much-australian-government-funding-provided-schools-each-state-and-territory/pdf>>

<sup>27</sup> Bonnor, C., & Shepherd, B. 2015. *Private school, public cost: How school funding is closing the wrong gaps*.

<sup>28</sup> Bonnor, C., & Shepherd, B. 2017. *The vanishing private school*.

<sup>29</sup> ACARA (2023), 'My School', <<https://www.myschool.edu.au/>>

<sup>30</sup> Australian Department of Education (2023), 'FQ 2023 Data Reporting Guide', <<https://schools.education.gov.au/SchoolsHub/articlehelp/?subjectid=949338ca-0a5d-e911-8105-023171a33a53>>

<sup>31</sup> Capital Expenditure from Private (non-government) sources calculated as 'Capital Expenditure: New School Loans' + 'Capital Expenditure: Income Allocated to Current Capital Projects' + 'Capital Expenditure: Other Private Sources'.

<sup>32</sup> *RI/MPJP Catholic schools* refers to Catholic schools run by *Religious Institutes* or *Ministerial Public Juridic Persons* (a particular type of entity defined in Canon Law). Such schools, while still under the authority of the local Bishop, are run independently rather than through the diocese schools office.

