

## Australian Parents Council

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### MISSION STATEMENT

APC, 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.

- ♦ Parents and Friends' Federation of Western Australia Inc.
  - ♦ NSW Parents Council Inc.
- ♦ Tasmanian Catholic Schools Parents and Friends Federation
- ♦ Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities (SA)
- ♦ Independent Schools Parents Council of South Australia Inc.
  - ♦ Independent Schools Parents Council (NT)
  - ♦ Association of Parents and Friends of ACT Schools
- ♦ The Queensland Independent Schools Parents Council Inc.
  - ♦ Victorian Parents Council

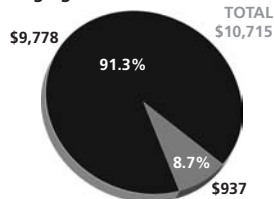
**MYTH:** "Faith-based schools promote social, cultural and religious isolation."

### THE FACTS ARE:

- Australians have always respected the right of parents to choose a school that reflects their family's particular religious or spiritual beliefs and values. About 95% of Australia's non-government schools are faith-based.
- Faith-based schools complement government schools and have made a significant contribution to multiculturalism and social cohesion in Australia.
- Faith-based schools actively promote and engage in social justice and outreach programs that foster tolerance, understanding and social responsibility in their students.
- Faith-based schools must deliver broad-based curricula and need to comply with complex financial and regulatory reporting requirements.

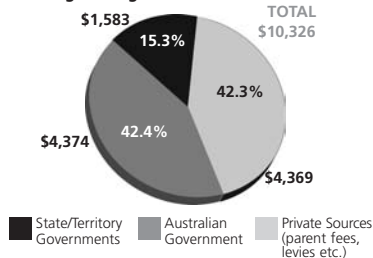
*Who really pays for schooling?*

Average government school student



Private contributions to government schools are generally estimated to be about 3% of total income.

Average non-government school student



## AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL FUNDING

## BUSTING THE MYTHS!



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**MYTH:** *“Government schools get less government funding than non-government schools.”*

**THE FACTS ARE:**

When all government funding is combined, on average, Australia’s government school students receive \$10,715 each in public funding and non-government school students receive, on average, \$5,957.

A government school with 200 students would receive, on average, about \$1 million a year more in public funding than a similar sized non-government school.

The parents who choose to send their children to non-government schools save governments (taxpayers) in Australia approximately \$5 billion annually (or about \$4,750 for every non-government school student).

**MYTH:** *“Wealthy non-government schools spend funding from the Australian Government on lavish buildings and sporting facilities.”*

**THE FACTS ARE:**

Governments provide non-government schools with Recurrent funding (towards salaries, teaching materials, cleaning, etc.) and Capital funding (to subsidise the cost of new building and facilities, redevelopment projects, etc.).

Recurrent funding cannot be spent on capital projects.

In 2005 government schools received about \$257 million in Capital funding from the Australian Government, while non-government schools received about \$105 million.

Allocation of Capital funding is tightly controlled and prioritised according to need.

“Wealthy” non-government schools do not qualify for Capital funding from the Australian Government.

**MYTH:** *“Non-government schools don’t have students with disabilities.”*

**THE FACTS ARE:**

Approximately 25% of all students with disabilities attend non-government schools.

A government school student with a disability has the cost of their education fully funded out of the public purse. This cost often exceeds \$25,000, based on current estimates.

In contrast, **maximum** public funding a non-government school student with a disability can receive is less than **\$9,000**.

This inequity in funding significantly impacts upon the capacity of non-government schools to offer an appropriate level of resources for students with a disability.

**MYTH:** *“Funding of non-government schools entrenches educational disadvantage.”*

**THE FACTS ARE:**

International research demonstrates that when parents in low socio-economic communities are given a funded option to choose a non-government school, their children are:

- 15% to 20% more likely to finish secondary education,
- five percentage points less likely to repeat a grade,
- score better on scholastic tests, and
- are much more likely to take tertiary entrance exams.

And, interestingly, government schools in the communities also increase their performance.