



PUBLIC EDUCATION

Building Great Australian Lives

ESSENTIAL FACTS ABOUT PUBLIC EDUCATION

“ To be able to go from Kirrawee High School through to an elite law school in this country and then to Harvard Law School I think shows the public system was everything that I needed.”

**Prof Larissa
Behrendt AO**



see video 

1 academic performance

Public schools are competitive, delivering quality education, producing high achievers and meeting the needs of all learners.

2021 NSW HSC
SCHOOL RANKING

TOP 10



**8/10 ARE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

HSC ALL ROUNDERS
SCHOOL RANKING



**6/10 ARE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

SOURCE: <https://www.matrix.edu.au/high-school-rankings/2021-high-school-rankings/>

SOURCE: <https://bettereducation.com.au/results/HscAllRounder.aspx>



But if you're only interested in academic achievement, the results from most of the 30-odd Australian studies since 2000 suggest that **private schools are no better at progressing students' learning than state schools**, once you've controlled for socioeconomic background. That's also been the case for Australia's results in the past three PISA tests, the OECD's international comparison test for student learning."

"On average private schools superficially appear to achieve higher student outcomes," concedes education researcher and public schools advocate Trevor Cobbold. "But public schools enrol the vast majority of disadvantaged students ... and this is what largely accounts for differences in school outcomes."

SOURCE: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/aug/18/bespoke-education-are-australias-private-schools-worth-the-price-tag>

The recent study showed NAPLAN scores of children who attended private schools were no different to those in public schools, after accounting for socioeconomic background.

SOURCE: <https://theconversation.com/>

2 inclusivity, equality and diversity

Public schools embrace everyone.



Inclusive education means that all students are welcomed by their school and are supported to learn, contribute and participate in all aspects of school."

SOURCE: <https://www.dese.gov.au/Planning-for-Personalised-Learning-and-Support>

INDIGENOUS STUDENTS SCHOOL ENROLMENTS*

PUBLIC

7.4%

PRIVATE

2.8%

DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS SCHOOL ENROLMENTS*

46% PUBLIC

20% PRIVATE

* SOURCE: <https://saveourschools.com.au/equity-in-education/public-schools-do-more-than-private-schools-with-fewer-resources/>

Because public schools admit all children in the community, those that attend the schools are more likely to be in classrooms with other children that do and don't think, act or look exactly like them. **Students are more apt to be exposed to students from different cultures or income levels.** They may learn to work with other students with mental and physical disabilities. The diversity of the student body can be an important learning experience in itself for all of the children that attend a particular school.

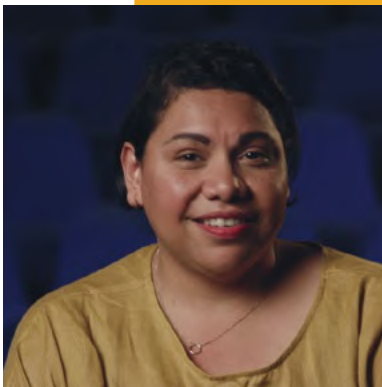
Kurt Fearnley AO



Inclusion. It's like a fundamental part of the public education system. That idea of acceptance is in its DNA"



see video



Deborah Mailman AM



My kids are in public school. They have fantastic teachers and I just really believe education and great education belongs to everyone."

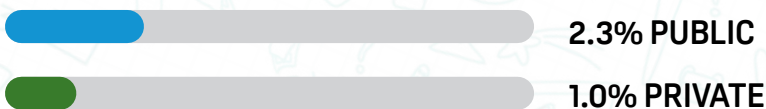
see video



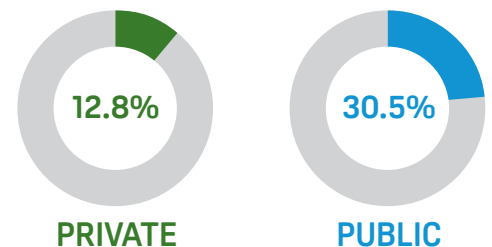
HIGH DISABILITY (EXTENSIVE & SUBSTANTIAL) STUDENTS SCHOOL ENROLMENTS*



REMOTE AREA STUDENTS SCHOOL ENROLMENTS*



LOW SES STUDENTS SCHOOL ENROLMENTS*



New figures published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Productivity Commission. (2019 data)

*SOURCE: <https://saveourschools.com.au/equity-in-education/public-schools-do-more-than-private-schools-with-fewer-resources/>

Craig Reucassel



In actual fact, it's the values that the school instils and there is no better place to instil values than the school that comes from the very idea that everybody can go there."



see video



3 available and accessible

Public schools are guaranteed to be located in your suburb and will always welcome a child.

Public schools, by law and by design, provide access to education for every child in a community. **Public schools accept students regardless of academic performance, income level, religious and personal background.** This ensures that every student in a community gets equal

access to educational opportunities. Because education is seen as the great equalizer for society, the availability of education is a key mandate.

Being a member of the public education community, the child has access to extensive support,

expertise and resources for all learning, social, emotional and physical needs including remediation, high potential, disabilities, the arts, linguistics, sciences, specific subjects, public speaking, sports, etc. and any combination.

4 cost The value of a public education cannot be beaten.

\$ AVERAGE COST OF EDUCATION

PUBLIC

90,122

PRIVATE

448,035

Research reveals that Sydney parents with a child starting at a private school in 2021 will expend an average of \$448,035 over the course of their education. While students off to a Sydney public school in 2021 are predicted to pay \$90,122 over the cost of their school years.

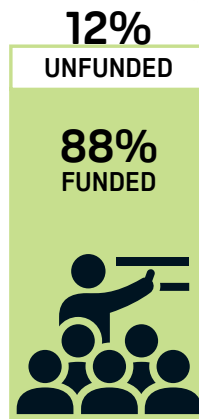
SOURCE: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9195165/The-cost-education-Australias-private-public-school-fees-revealed.htm>



5 resourcing

There is a School Resourcing Standard (SRS) which describes the nationally agreed minimum level that schools need to be funded at to meet the needs of all students. This is a combined measure of both state and federal funding levels.

Despite the challenges of working in an underfunded system, public school teachers continue to work in the interests of their students and their communities.



UNDER CURRENT FUNDING AGREEMENTS NSW PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL BE FUNDED TO ONLY 88% OF THEIR IDENTIFIED NEEDS



1/8 STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE WITHOUT FUNDING

SOURCE: Bilateral agreement between NSW and the Commonwealth on Quality Schools Reform



Whatever kind of background you're from, in public education, you're going to get an opportunity because it's for everybody and it sees the potential in everybody."

Juanita Phillips



see video



6 performance at university

Yes! Public school students are well-equipped to do well to pursue higher learning.



"Contrary to popular belief, when it comes to university, it's the public school students who come out well on top of their private counterparts. At university, the majority of public school graduates outperform their private school counterparts."

(Birch and Miller, 2007)

SOURCE: <https://wannabees.com.au/public-vs-private-schools/>

7 successful alumni

Successful people usually give credit to their education. Public school educated achievers have more to boast of because likely that they broke more barriers to get to where they are.

Your local school is likely to have amazing alumni working in communities across Australia... doctors, teachers, firefighters, retail managers, you name it.

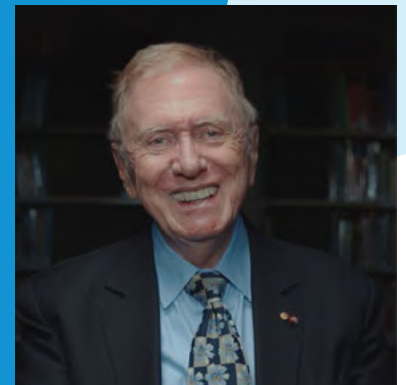


ATTENDED PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**The Hon Michael Kirby
AC CMG**



Encouraging people to do what they want to do and with excellence. Excellence was the motto of my school and of public education."



see video



Public education has the broadest curriculum which offers pathways to success through university, TAFE and direct employment.

**PUBLIC EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**

We Give Life-Changing Scholarships

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Publicedfoundation

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land throughout Australia, and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.