



Strictly embargoed until 12:01am, 30 January 2019

## Canberra - Australia's second most expensive city for a Catholic education

Canberra is Australia's second most expensive city for a Catholic education, according to exclusive research released today.

The ASG Planning for Education Index (developed in partnership with Monash University) estimates the total cost of a Catholic education in Canberra will be \$126,064 over a 13 period for a child starting school in 2019.

This is 0.8 per cent below the national average (127,027) and second only to Adelaide (\$131,498), Australia's most expensive city for a Catholic education.

School fees (\$4,119) are easily the most expensive component of a Catholic education, well ahead of other annual expenses including uniforms (\$492), camps (\$495) and devices (\$767).

The Index discovered a better result for parents considering a Government education for their son or daughter, with the estimated total cost of a Government education in Canberra (\$55,064), 19.9 per cent below the national average (\$68,727).

School fees (\$561) make up a small fraction of the estimated total cost of a Government education each year, with sports equipment (\$313), external tuition (\$442), transport (\$484) and devices (\$754) all adding to the estimated total cost.

The ASG Planning for Education Index also revealed Canberra (\$209,978) is one of Australia's most affordable cities for an Independent education, 29.7 per cent below the national average (\$298,689).

The estimated total cost of an Independent education in Canberra is \$252,021 cheaper than Sydney (\$461,999), Australia's most expensive city for an Independent education.

School fees are the most expensive part of an Independent education in Canberra, costing parents approximately \$9,252 per child per year, well ahead of transport (\$354), camps (\$370) and devices (\$1,243).

The Index is based on data sourced from a survey of 2,300 members on ancillary costs conducted by ASG and public information on school fees – *The Good Schools Guide* and the *My School Website*. The data was consolidated and analysed by Monash University.

Janeen Andersen's son, Martin, is about to start Year 11 at a Government high school in Canberra.

"Nothing surprises me anymore regarding the estimated total cost of education." Mrs Andersen said.

"Martin has changed from an Independent school to a Government school this year so he can study the subjects he wants.



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"As a family, we'll have lower school fees, but it's the hidden costs of education that take you by surprise, especially excursions, camps, devices, sports equipment and transport. They quickly add up."

ASG CEO Ross Higgins said irrespective of Australia's high or low inflationary environment, the cost of education has risen at more than double the rate of inflation over the past decade.

"Education costs, including tuition costs, uniforms, transport and devices are demanding a far greater share of the family budget than in the past," Mr Higgins said.

"More than ever, the costs associated with education are placing more of a burden on Australian families, who are already challenged by the rising cost of living.

"With less discretionary money to spend, it's going to be very hard to pay for education, which means parents who have saved will be in a better position in the long run.

"ASG advocates parents use a disciplined approach to saving by putting in place a dedicated savings plan, so they can financially afford to meet their children's educational goals and aspirations.

"ASG has also developed a Cost Calculator tool which may assist you looking at this data as it applies to your circumstances."

For more information about ASG call 131 ASG (131 274) or visit [www.asg.com.au](http://www.asg.com.au)

**Ends**

## Summary of total forecast education costs (median) for a child starting school in 2019\*\*

	Location	Government	Catholic	Independent
<b>National</b>	Metropolitan	\$68,727	\$127,027	\$298,689
	Regional	\$57,994	\$109,877	\$201,210
<b>Canberra</b>	Metropolitan	\$55,064	\$126,064	\$209,978
<b>NSW</b>	Metropolitan	\$66,470	\$114,531	\$461,999
	Regional	\$73,808	\$112,248	\$203,654
<b>QLD</b>	Metropolitan	\$75,601	\$115,034	\$209,608
	Regional	\$65,410	\$113,211	\$186,226
<b>SA</b>	Metropolitan	\$54,938	\$131,498	\$221,415
	Regional	\$51,615	\$95,349	\$159,009
<b>TAS</b>	Metropolitan	\$48,241	\$96,290	\$276,338
	Regional	\$40,489	\$86,694	\$131,673
<b>VIC</b>	Metropolitan	\$70,604	\$121,547	\$438,390
	Regional	\$47,224	\$88,581	\$248,543
<b>WA</b>	Metropolitan	\$54,134	\$109,097	\$208,080
	Regional	\$53,094	\$101,137	\$114,410
<b>Darwin</b>	Metropolitan	\$42,628	\$96,061	\$140,916

*\*\*These estimates are future long terms costs, projected over a 13-year period and are provided as a guide only. ASG cannot guarantee they will represent the actual costs of education for a particular child.*

### Definitions

Schools can be differentiated by their affiliation, ownership and management, and are presented as two broad categories:

- Government schools are owned and managed by State and Territory governments;
- Non-Government schools (including Catholic or Independent schools) that are owned and managed by non-government establishments. These schools have associations with religious (faith based) or secular bodies (philosophical beliefs), or are entirely independent and have values maintained by the school.

Sources: ABS Schools Australia, 2017, School education - Report on Government Services 2018 (ROGS Ch. 4)



# Media Release

## **Editor's notes**

ASG offers a range of education scholarship plans, which are designed to provide families with a tax effective means of saving for future education costs.

ASG is a member owned organisation, helping to create educational opportunities for children. ASG has been helping families and their children for more than 40 years. During this time, more than 551,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$3.1 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments returned to members. For more information visit: [www.asg.com.au](http://www.asg.com.au)

## **Media contact**

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