



Strictly embargoed until 12:01am, 30 January 2019

## Melbourne - one of Australia's most expensive cities for education

Melbourne is one of Australia's most expensive cities for education, irrespective of the school type, according to exclusive research released today.

The ASG Planning for Education Index (developed in partnership with Monash University) estimates the total cost of an Independent education in the Victorian capital will be \$438,390 over a 13 period for a child starting school in 2019.

This is 46.8 per cent above the national average (\$298,689) and second only to Sydney (\$461,999) as Australia's most expensive.

School fees are easily the most expensive component of an Independent education in Melbourne, costing parents approximately \$23,948 per child per year, well ahead of excursions (\$272), musical equipment (\$354), devices (\$881) and transport (\$892).

The Index discovered a similar result for parents considering a Government education for their son or daughter, with the estimated total cost of a Government education in Melbourne (\$70,604) 2.7 per cent above the national average (\$68,727) and the second most expensive in the country behind Brisbane (\$75,601).

Startingly school fees (\$557) make up a small fraction of the estimated total cost of a Government education each year with external tuition (\$878) and devices (\$1,142) both costing more.

The Index also found the estimated total cost of a Catholic education in Melbourne (\$121,547) is 4.3 per cent below the national average (\$127,027).

Melbourne is considerably more affordable than Adelaide (\$131,498) and Canberra (\$126,064), Australia's most expensive capitals for a Catholic education.

School fees (\$4,222) are easily the most expensive component of a Catholic education in Melbourne, well ahead of other annual expenses including musical equipment (\$228), uniforms (\$401), transport (\$486) and devices (\$856).

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.

Lisa Waterman's only child, Hayden, is about to start Year 7 at a Government school and said she's surprised by the estimated total cost of a Government education in Melbourne.

"It's a lot of money," Ms Waterman said.

"A so-called free Government education is easily a house deposit.

"You can plan for school fees, but it's the hidden costs of education that take you by surprise, especially excursions, camps, devices, sports equipment and transport."



# Media Release

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\*\***

	<b>Location</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Catholic</b>	<b>Independent</b>
<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.*



# Media Release

## 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)

## 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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