

For immediate release

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## Future education price hikes have less impact on regional families

### Nationwide survey reveals rising education costs have less impact on parents living in regional areas

Parents living in regional Australia can expect to pay more than 22 per cent less than their metropolitan counterparts for all education systems, according to new research from the Australian Scholarships Group (ASG).

The study revealed metropolitan families across Australia will be the hardest hit financially with the cost of education expected to increase significantly over the next five years.

ASG, a not-for-profit education benefits provider, surveyed more than 12,000 of its Members on the total cost of education for children in metropolitan centres and regional areas, which included education-related expenses such as school fees, extra-curricular activities, travel, clothing, necessities and computers.

ASG's General Manager, Development Frida Kordovoulos said the research showed parents of children in regional areas benefit significantly compared to parents in metropolitan centres, whether families chose a government, systemic or private education system.

However, Ms Kordovoulos warned that no school would be immune to the increasing education costs anticipated across Australia.

"The rising costs associated with the price of education are expected to affect every child, every parent and every school no matter where you live," said Ms Kordovoulos. "This could prove increasingly challenging for families already feeling the pinch in today's tough economic environment."

"Parents often overlook the total cost of education when budgeting as they tend to focus mainly on the annual school fees. However, it's the many hidden costs such as clothing, travel, books, sporting and musical equipment, computer and internet access, and the various extracurricular costs related to camps, outings, private tuition and classes that are often not accounted for."

The survey revealed that regional parents who choose government schooling for a child born in 2012 can expect to pay up to \$51,644 – 22 per cent less than their metropolitan counterparts, depending on the state in which families reside.

The gap between regional and metropolitan areas widens when parents opt for systemic and private education systems:

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**Schooling costs for child born in 2012: Regional Australia (14 year education: includes pre-school and prep)**

- Government – up to \$51,644
- Systemic (Catholic) – up to \$158,170
- Private – up to \$284,099

**Schooling costs for child born in 2012: Metropolitan Australia (14 year education: includes pre-school and prep)**

- Government – up to \$65,829
- Systemic (Catholic) – up to \$212,920
- Private – up to \$428,723

Ms Kordovolous said families who were not prepared for the future could find the costs of education are a shock to the family budget.

“Your child’s future is too important to leave to chance, so we encourage parents to start saving for education at an early age, and it doesn’t need to be arduous. The Australian Scholarships Group recommend that for as little as \$11 a week – the cost of three coffees – that parents can benefit from a savings program that will ensure their child’s future education, whether that be full time study at university or TAFE,” said Ms Kordovolous.

ASG Member Michelle Huppe of Victoria stated she and her husband had started an education fund with ASG to ensure they were well prepared for their children’s future schooling costs.

“We wanted to give ourselves plenty of time to save the money needed to ensure we provide our children with the best possible options for gaining a suitable education,” said Mrs Huppe. “Putting that extra bit aside for future schooling costs means there will be more money available when our children get to secondary school to help with payments, and it helps combat any unexpected future financial pressures.”

It’s also given Mrs Huppe peace-of-mind that she can choose the school system that will give her children a solid foundation for success in the future.

**For summary sheets of the cost of education in metropolitan and regional areas please visit:**  
[www.asg.com.au/edcosts](http://www.asg.com.au/edcosts)

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**For more information, please contact:**

Camilla Fiorini, Communications Manager,  
Australian Scholarships Group  
Ph: 03 9276 7786  
Mobile: 0402 837 758

Scott McKenzie, Senior Account Manager  
Professional Public Relations  
Ph: 03 8643 1636  
Mobile: 0433 144 731

**About the Australian Scholarships Group (ASG)**

ASG is a not-for-profit specialist education benefits provider that offers parents a proven and proactive way to nurture and fund their children’s education. ASG has supported parents to provide education opportunities for their children for nearly 40 years. Find out more about ASG and ASG’s Education Program™ at [www.asg.com.au](http://www.asg.com.au) or phone 1800 648 945.