

**January 2016**

**The cost of educating a child in Canberra  
*One of the least expensive cities for public education***

Canberra is one of Australia's most affordable cities to educate a child in public and systemic<sup>1</sup> schools, according to exclusive research released today.

The ASG Planning for Education Index discovers for a child born in 2016 the forecast cost of a government education in Canberra is \$50,385, 25 per cent less than the national metropolitan average (\$66,862) and second only to Hobart (\$45,114) as the nation's most affordable.

The survey also reveals the forecast cost of a government education in Canberra (\$50,385) is \$24,808 more affordable than Melbourne (\$75,193) and \$22,678 more affordable than Sydney (\$73,063).

The index also finds the cost of a systemic education in Canberra (\$223,940) is \$6,441 less than the national metropolitan average (\$230,381) and much more affordable compared to Sydney (\$240,768), Adelaide (\$239,053) and Brisbane (\$235,563).

The forecast cost of a private education in Canberra (\$431,538) is eight per cent less than the national metropolitan average (\$468,397) and well below Australia's most expensive cities for a private education, Sydney (\$552,351) and Melbourne (\$512,283).

The ASG Planning for Education Index also forecasts preschool or kindergarten in Canberra will cost parents between \$1,247 and \$8,330 depending on the school type. These costs cover other expenditure such as clothing and transport as there are no preschool fees in the Australian Capital Territory.

Based on more than 12,500 responses, the index measures a range of variables including school fees, transport, uniforms, computers, school excursions and sporting trips to determine the cost of education.

Interestingly, the cost of certain variables measured as part of the ASG Planning for Education Index have not increased over the past year. For example, the costs for computers and transport costs, including the price of fuel, have declined compared to last year, while the cost of books has remained stable.

ASG member and mother of three, Katrina Wood says she pays \$9000 a year on just primary school fees to send her daughter Chloe (year six) to a Steiner (private) school.

"I come from a family who strongly believe in education, because it gives you the best start for the rest of your life. All of our money goes to school fees and scholarship payments and the reason I joined ASG from when they were born is to give me a choice at selecting any high school and to do what we're doing now.

"I chose Chloe's school because it suits her personality and style of learning. They have the same teacher from grade one to grade seven, so that same teacher gets to know

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<sup>1</sup> A systemic education includes religious schools e.g. Catholic, Anglican, Uniting Church, Buddhist, Islamic or Hindu

each student and teaches the teaching style to suit each child and that's the point of difference."

ASG CEO John Velegrinis says the cost of education continued to rise at more than twice the rate of inflation over the past decade.

"Regardless of whether you send your children to a government, systemic or private school, the costs of that education will clearly increase which is why we advocate that parents start planning for education as early as possible, even from the moment their child is born.

"We're very fortunate in Australia to have a variety of excellent government, systemic and private schools. If you have two or three children, the cost of a private education in Canberra could be higher than the purchase price of the family home. We advocate parents use a disciplined approach by putting a little bit away each week so they financially can afford their children's educational goals and aspirations."

Independent statistician and Managing Director of foreseexchange Charlie Nelson says the current economic climate is having an effect on education.

"A sudden increase in education costs would certainly be painful in the current low income growth environment.

"With school fees increasing faster than incomes, it has never been more important for parents to financially plan for their child's future as early as possible."

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

### Summary of total education costs for a child born in 2016

	Location	Public	Systemic	Private
<b>National</b>	Metropolitan	\$66,862	\$230,381	\$468,397
	Regional	\$50,920	\$172,331	\$328,981
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>	Metropolitan	\$50,385	\$223,940	\$431,538
<b>New South Wales</b>	Metropolitan	\$73,063	\$240,768	\$552,351
	Regional	\$52,598	\$167,021	\$349,941
<b>Queensland</b>	Metropolitan	\$58,843	\$235,563	\$360,044
	Regional	\$50,478	\$193,262	\$326,762
<b>South Australia</b>	Metropolitan	\$57,459	\$239,053	\$365,976
	Regional	\$49,593	\$191,973	\$287,128
<b>Tasmania</b>	Metropolitan	\$45,114	\$196,089	\$421,309
	Regional	\$47,425	\$160,664	\$340,214

<b>Victoria</b>	Metropolitan	\$75,193	\$214,958	\$512,283
	Regional	\$53,245	\$154,703	\$353,857
<b>Western Australia</b>	Metropolitan	\$55,250	\$227,442	\$393,870
	Regional	\$43,594	\$143,139	\$308,323

*A very small number of responses were received from the Northern Territory in the most recent survey. As such, the provision of cost estimates for the Northern Territory in isolation would be highly unreliable and therefore have not been included. It is recommended that those in the Northern Territory refer to the national figures or the figures for adjoining states as a basis for planning.*

### **Further information**

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

### **Editor's notes**

*ASG conducts the Planning for Education Index annually, asking parents to estimate education costs, which cover preschool, primary and secondary schools in Australia. This survey includes 12,500 responses relating to the number of responses acquired from a combination of the 2013 and 2015 surveys. Data from both surveys has been combined to increase the sample size and precision of the estimates. The 2015 estimates reported are an average of the data acquired in the 2015 survey and the 2013 data, adjusted for inflation using known ABS CPI increases.*

*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 520,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2.3 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments returned to members. For more information visit: [www.asg.com.au](http://www.asg.com.au)*

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