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Canberra families to spend up to \$800,000 on K-12 education

Canberra the least expensive city for a systemic¹ education

A family² living in Canberra could spend up to \$800,000 educating their children, according to the ASG Planning for Education Index released today.

The survey found that for a child born in 2015 the forecast cost of a private education in Canberra is \$421,418, below the national metropolitan average of \$456,933 and \$119,857 less than Sydney (\$541,275), the most expensive city to privately educate a child.

Canberra (\$53,564) is below the national metropolitan average (\$64,416) for the cost of educating a child in the public system and above Adelaide (\$50,268), Australia's least expensive city.

Canberra (\$207,732) is the least expensive city for a systemic education, well below the national metropolitan average (\$228,120) and Brisbane (\$241,849), Australia's most expensive city for a systemic education.

ASG CEO John Velegrinis said regardless of whether choosing to educate a child in a public, private or systemic school, parents need to start planning financially for education from the time their child is born.

"Education is one of life's major investments – in some instances it's an even bigger investment than the family home. What we're advocating is that by putting a little bit away, parents are more likely to achieve the goals and aspirations they have for their children."

Mother of two, Jeanette Schwarz decided to plan and prepare early for her children's education. Portia (Year 3) and Zaden (Year 1) both attend a public school in Canberra.

"My husband and I were both the first in our families to gain a tertiary qualification. We remember what a struggle it was to pay off our degrees, get our first jobs and buy a house. We can only imagine it will be much harder for our children, which is why we decided to invest early in their education.

"We consider investing in our children's education for the long term to be one of the greatest gifts we can give them" said Mrs Schwarz.

Mr Velegrinis said school fees are only one component of total education costs.

"There is a myriad of other costs involved including transport, uniforms and school books, excursions – which can create financial headaches if they're not planned for."

The ASG Planning for Education Index, compiled by the member owned organisation, measures a range of variables including school fees, transport, uniforms, computers, school excursions and sporting trips to determine the cost of education.

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¹ A systemic education includes religious schools e.g. Catholic, Anglican, Uniting Church, Buddhist, Islamic, Hindu

² ABS data shows the average Australian family has 1.9 children

Summary of total education costs for a child born in 2015

	Location	Public	Systemic	Private
National	Metropolitan	\$64,416	\$228,120	\$456,933
	Regional	\$52,407	\$169,599	\$321,663
Australian Capital Territory	Metropolitan	\$53,564	\$207,732	\$421,418
New South Wales	Metropolitan	\$71,406	\$234,887	\$541,275
	Regional	\$54,421	\$161,231	\$343,385
Northern Territory	Metropolitan	\$57,909	\$232,454	\$371,589
	Regional	\$48,817	\$153,398	\$294,810
Queensland	Metropolitan	\$59,176	\$241,849	\$360,398
	Regional	\$51,493	\$199,723	\$295,851
South Australia	Metropolitan	\$50,268	\$229,347	\$338,264
	Regional	\$49,759	\$190,817	\$281,126
Tasmania	Metropolitan	\$50,431	\$219,846	\$381,677
	Regional	\$52,542	\$138,649	\$296,007
Victoria	Metropolitan	\$69,349	\$213,916	\$502,088
	Regional	\$51,686	\$151,628	\$344,355
Western Australia	Metropolitan	\$55,458	\$219,988	\$367,541
	Regional	\$49,551	\$129,664	\$298,752

Notes: Figures have been rounded and represent the upper ranges that parents can reasonably expect to pay (including fees, extracurricular activities, clothing, necessities, and computer and internet costs). These figures are provided as a guide only. ASG cannot guarantee that they will represent the actual costs of education for a particular child.

Further information

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

Editor's notes

The Australian Scholarships Group (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 515,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments returned to members. For more information visit: www.asg.com.au

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