

**Strictly embargoed until 12.01am, Tuesday 20 January 2015**

## **New South Wales families to spend up to \$1m on K-12 education**

*Sydney the most expensive city for public and private education*

Families<sup>1</sup> in New South Wales could spend up to \$1 million on their children's education, according to the ASG Planning for Education Index released today.

The survey found that parents of a child born in 2015 the forecast cost of a private education in Sydney is \$541,275, making it the most expensive city in Australia to educate a child and \$203,011 more than in Adelaide, the least expensive city.

Sydney is also the most expensive city to educate a child in the public system at \$71,406, well above the national metropolitan average (\$64,416).

The survey revealed that Sydney (\$234,887) is second only to Brisbane (\$241,849) as the most expensive city for a systemic<sup>2</sup> education, with both sitting above the national metropolitan average of \$228,120.

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."

New South Wales is one of the most expensive states to privately educate a child in a regional area (\$343,385), second only to Victoria (\$344,355).

In regional areas, a public education is most expensive in New South Wales (\$54,421), making it the most expensive state to educate a child in the public system, regardless of whether families are located in regional or metro New South Wales.

The survey found that regionally New South Wales is below the national regional average (\$169,599) for a systemic education at \$161,231.

Mother of two, Olga Ganopolsky decided to plan and prepare early for her children's education. Nicholas (Year 11) and James (Year 5) both attend a private school in Sydney.

"We came to Australia from Russia and I remember how hard it was for our parents to give us a quality education. It was financially difficult and they found the choices they had to make challenging. I just remember the distinct feeling that this was a really important issue and navigating through that was quite difficult.

"Nicholas is studying German and the payments have been really handy, meaning we could send him to Germany to study at a language institute for one month," Ms Ganopolsky added.

"I'd like the boys to fulfil their full academic potential, which will probably include some form of tertiary education. James is still in primary school but he's already asking questions about the best university to go to if he wants to be a geologist or maybe be an engineer."

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."

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<sup>1</sup> ABS data shows the average Australian family has 1.9 children

<sup>2</sup> A systemic education includes religious schools e.g. Catholic, Anglican, Uniting Church, Buddhist, Islamic, Hindu

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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### Summary of total education costs for a child born in 2015

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

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