

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

## **Northern Territory families to spend up to \$710,000 on K-12 education**

*Northern Territory least expensive state for regional public education*

Families<sup>1</sup> in the Northern Territory could spend up to \$710,000 on their children's education, 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 Darwin (\$371,589) is \$85,344 less than the national metropolitan average.

The survey forecast that a public education in Darwin (\$57,909) is \$13,497 less than in Sydney (\$71,406), Australia's most expensive city for public schooling.

Darwin (\$232,454) is above the national metropolitan average (\$228,120) in the cost of a systemic<sup>2</sup> education, but \$9,395 less than Brisbane (\$241,849), the 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."

The Northern Territory (\$294,810) is among the least expensive regional areas in Australia to privately educate a child, well below the national regional average (\$321,663).

The Northern Territory is Australia's least expensive regional location for a public education at \$48,817 per child from K-12, well below regional New South Wales (\$54,421), Australia's most expensive regional location for a public education.

The survey revealed that parents in regional Northern Territory could expect to pay \$153,398 for a systemic education, \$46,325 less than regional Queensland, Australia's most expensive regional area.

Mother of two, Lynda Stanwix, decided to plan and prepare early for her children's education. Kurt (Year 12) and Courtney (Year 11) both attend a private Lutheran school in the Northern Territory.

"When we first joined ASG we were only a few years into our mortgage so money was a bit tight, but in hindsight it was a very wise decision.

"We want our children to achieve at the highest level so they're not restricted in their career choices. Education is important because knowledge is power," said Ms Stanwix. 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.

-ENDS-

### 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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