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Queensland families to spend up to \$700,000 on K-12 education

Queensland the most expensive Australian state for systemic¹ education

Families² in Queensland could spend up to \$700,000 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 Brisbane (\$360,398) is \$96,535 less than the national metropolitan average and \$22,134 more than Adelaide (\$338,264), Australia's least expensive city for private education.

Brisbane (\$241,849) is Australia's most expensive city for a systemic education – well above the national metropolitan average (\$228,120) and \$34,117 more than Canberra, Australia's least expensive city for systemic education.

The survey forecast that a public education in Brisbane (\$59,176) is less than the Australian metropolitan average (\$64,416) and Sydney (\$71,406), Australia's most expensive city for public schooling.

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 survey revealed that regional Queensland is forecast to be the most expensive location for a systemic education (\$199,723) – significantly more than regional Western Australia (\$129,664), Australia's least expensive regional area for systemic education.

A public education in regional Queensland is forecast at \$51,493 per child from K-12, slightly less than regional New South Wales (\$54,421), Australia's most expensive regional area for a public education. While a private education in regional Queensland could cost parents \$295,851, well below the national regional average (\$321,663).

Mother of two, Debbie Batchelor, decided to plan and prepare early for her children's education. Tara (Year 10) and Ben (Year 8) both attend a private school on the Gold Coast.

"When we came into contact with ASG, it got us thinking to start saving away while we can. It really adds up in the end and it's worthwhile.

"I expect my kids to finish Year 12 successfully and choose a degree that's going to help them chase their career goals," said Mrs Batchelor.

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."

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

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
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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