

Strictly embargoed until 12.01am, Tuesday 20 January 2015

Tasmanian families to spend up to \$730,000 on K-12 education

Tasmania the second most expensive state for a public education

Tasmanian families¹ could spend up to \$730,000 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 Hobart (\$381,677) is \$75,256 less than the national metropolitan average.

The survey forecast that a public education in Hobart (\$50,431) is among the least expensive of Australian cities and well below Sydney (\$71,406), Australia's most expensive city for public schooling.

Hobart (\$219,846) is also below the national metropolitan average (\$228,120) in the cost of a systemic² education and well below 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."

A private education in regional Tasmania is forecast to cost \$296,007, below the national regional average (\$321,663) but more expensive than South Australia (\$281,126), Australia's least expensive regional area for a private education.

Tasmania is Australia's second most expensive regional area for a public education at \$52,542 per child from K-12, just shy of regional New South Wales (\$54,421).

The survey revealed that parents in regional Tasmania could expect to pay \$138,649 for a systemic education, \$61,074 less than parents living in regional Queensland, the most expensive regional area for a systemic education.

Tasmanian grandfather of four, Gary Lawrence, says it is a pleasure to be supporting his two elder children educate their own families.

"Education is very important, it's a no brainer. My wife and I ran a successful hotel in Hobart but we still felt socially inept because most of our friends had a university education.

"It gives us great enjoyment to see our grandchildren grow and learn and share this educational experience with our children," said Mr Lawrence.

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 ABS data shows the average Australian family has 1.9 children

² 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
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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