

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

## **Victorian families to spend up to \$950,000 on K-12 education**

*Regional Victoria the most expensive for private education*

Victorian families<sup>1</sup> could spend up to \$950,000 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 Melbourne (\$502,088) is more than \$45,000 above than the national metropolitan average and second only to Sydney (\$541,275).

The survey forecast that a public education in Melbourne (\$69,349) is less than in Sydney (\$71,406) – Australia's most expensive city for public schooling.

Melbourne is also below the national metropolitan average (\$228,120) in the cost of a systemic<sup>2</sup> education (\$213,916) 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."

Victoria is Australia's most expensive regional location for private education at \$344,355 per child from K-12, followed closely by regional New South Wales (\$343,385) and well above Australia's least expensive regional area to privately educate, South Australia (\$281,126).

The survey revealed that parents in regional Victoria could expect to pay \$51,686 for a public education – \$17,663 less than parents living in Melbourne.

Victoria is below the national average (\$169,599) for a systemic education in a regional area at \$151,628 per child from K-12, but is still well above regional Western Australia (\$129,664) the least expensive regional area for a systemic education.

Mother of one, Kanny Lai, decided to plan and prepare early for her daughter's education. Joy (Year 11) attends a Melbourne private school.

"Joy was not even 12 months old when I decided to start saving. I wanted to have a clear vision on how I would have the money ready for her education.

"Education is a minimum requirement of society now. I don't have a preference for what Joy studies at university, as long as she enjoys whatever career she chooses," says Ms Lai.

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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