

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

**Western Australian families to spend up to \$700,000 on K-12 education**

*Western Australia least expensive state for regional systemic<sup>1</sup> education*

Western Australian families<sup>2</sup> 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 Perth (\$367,541) is \$89,392 less than the national metropolitan average.

The survey forecast that a public education in Perth (\$55,458) is \$15,948 less than in Sydney (\$71,406), Australia's most expensive city for public schooling, and also below the national metropolitan average (\$64,416).

Perth (\$219,988) is below the national metropolitan average (\$228,120) in the cost of a systemic education, and well below Brisbane (\$241,849), the most expensive city in Australia 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 Western Australia could cost parents \$298,752 per child, making it amongst the more expensive in Australia's regional locations, but still below the national regional average (\$321,663).

Western Australia is Australia's second least expensive regional location for a public education at \$49,551 per child from K-12, just shy of regional Northern Territory (\$48,817), Australia's least expensive regional area to educate a child in the public system.

The survey revealed that regional Western Australia (\$129,664) is forecast to be the least expensive location for a systemic education, \$70,059 less than regional Queensland, Australia's most expensive regional area for a systemic education.

Mother of three, Anna Stanlon, decided to plan and prepare early for her children's education. Her youngest daughter, Isabella is in her final year of school and attends a private boarding school in Adelaide.

"I enrolled all of my children with ASG. As an adult I had to work really hard to obtain my tertiary education, so I wanted my children to have the full support they needed.

I encourage all parents to give their children a leg up, because it informs them from a really early age that education is valuable," said Mrs Stanlon.

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

-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)*

### Media contact

For further information or to arrange an interview with ASG CEO John Velegrinis please contact:

#### Emma Humann

Haystac  
Mobile: 0419 387 572  
Email: [emma.humann@haystac.com.au](mailto:emma.humann@haystac.com.au)

#### Nicole Gundi

ASG  
Mobile: 0448 167 578  
Email: [NGundi@asg.com.au](mailto:NGundi@asg.com.au)