

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

## **South Australian families to spend up to \$650,000 on K-12 education**

*South Australia the least expensive state for a private education*

South Australia is the least expensive state to privately educate a child, but education could still cost the average family<sup>1</sup> up to \$650,000, 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 is \$338,264 in Adelaide and \$281,126 in regional South Australia, making it the least expensive state to privately educate a child.

Adelaide is also the least expensive city for a public education (\$50,268) below the national metropolitan average (\$64,416) and Sydney (\$71,406), Australia's most expensive city for public schooling.

Adelaide (\$229,347) is just above the national metropolitan average (\$228,120) for the cost of a systemic<sup>2</sup> 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."

In regional areas, South Australia (\$49,759) is below the national regional average (\$52,407) for a public education, but just above the Northern Territory (\$48,817), Australia's least expensive regional area for a public education.

The survey revealed that parents in regional South Australia could expect to pay \$190,817 for a systemic education, making it second only to Queensland (\$199,723) as Australia's most expensive region for a systemic education.

Mother of two, Sheree Sweet, decided to plan and prepare early for her children's education. Liam (Year 10) and Joel (Year 7) both attend public school in South Australia.

"My boys were infants when I enrolled them with ASG. I want them to achieve at a level where they have a range of choices in what they do in the future.

"I've just started tertiary education myself this year and I now appreciate the further costs associated with university. There are HECS fees and textbooks – it's been quite confronting. Knowing this I can help plan for the future, which will take the pressure off both the boys and me when they go on to tertiary study," said Ms Sweet.

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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