

Media Release

Research confirms parental choice in education saves taxpayers billions

New research from Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW) confirms the extent of money saved by taxpayers by government support of school choice for parents.

Published today, it reveals that non-government schools save taxpayers at least \$4.59 billion each year in recurrent funding and that Catholic schools in NSW alone represent a \$500 million annual saving for taxpayers. It also shows that if all government and non-government schools received their full funding entitlement under the *Australian Education Act 2013*, savings to taxpayers would be \$6.31 billion each year in recurrent funding. These savings include \$2.04 billion for primary students and \$4.27 billion for secondary students. Catholic schools make up \$2.96 billion of the total amount saved, and Independent schools \$3.35 billion.

Parent contributions to capital funding for schools save further taxpayer money, as non-government schools typically cover over 90% of capital expenditure from private sources – around \$4.48 billion in 2022.

Dallas McInerney, CEO of Catholic Schools NSW, said the research cut through the hype to demonstrate the tangible benefits of parental choice in education and the strength of Australia's diverse education offerings.

“The recent debate on school funding is too often presented as a zero-sum game between different schools and unhelpfully tinged with appeals to envy and populism. The fundamentals of the mixed model of school provision remain strong: parents value choice and critically, the taxpayer is way better off when non-government schools are supported, as we see with the billions saved every year.”

“Parent’s contributions to capital funding increase savings to the taxpayer and the government, as non-government schools typically cover over 90% of capital expenditure from private sources—around \$4.48 billion in 2022.”

“The Catholic school system in NSW alone saves the state \$500+ million while also offering a low-fee, values-based educational alternative and people are voting with their feet with enrolments in the Catholic sector at a ten-year high.”

“It’s a win for parental choice in education and it’s a win for the taxpayer.”

The research paper can be accessed [here](#).

Catholic Schools NSW represents the state’s 592 Catholic schools and their 268,000 students.