



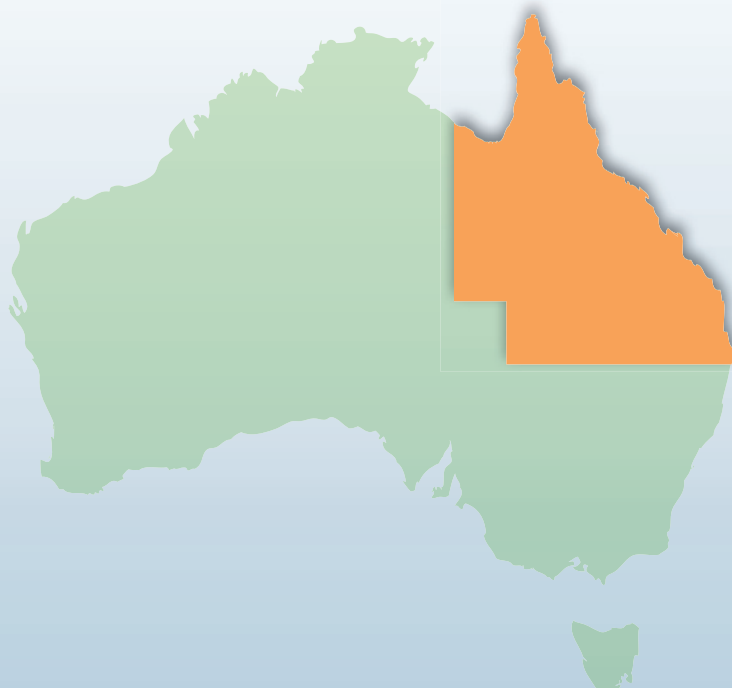
Independent Schools  
Queensland

choice & diversity

# AUSTRALIAN & QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

## CHOICE & DIVERSITY

An Information Booklet For ISQ Member Schools / 2009





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## DISCLAIMER

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## INTRODUCTION

Interest in the level and sources of school funding is both broad and strong.

Funding of independent schools is sourced from both state and federal governments and from school communities and other private sources.

Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ) has prepared this publication to inform school boards, principals and bursars about government funding for independent schools.

The government funding programs detailed in this publication are the main forms of assistance.

Governments provide a number of other grants of either a minor or temporary nature that are not covered in this booklet

Details of all grants can be found at the relevant government websites -

Australian Government – <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/Pages/default.aspx> - click on the links “Programs and initiatives” then “Funding”.

Queensland Government - <http://education.qld.gov.au/finance/grants/fund/garp/html/nssgrant.html>

Income data from 2007 indicates that for Queensland independent schools, Australian Government grants represented on average 35% of total income (and 52% of total income for Catholic schools). Figures for all income sources for the Queensland independent school sector are presented below in Table 1:

<b>Table 1: 2007 Calendar Year – Average Income per Student by Source for the Queensland Independent School Sector</b>		
<b>Source of income</b>	<b>Average income per student</b>	<b>Proportion by income source</b>
Private	\$6 427	50%
Australian Government	\$4 593	35%
Queensland Government	\$1 892	15%
Total	\$12 912	100%

*(Source: National Report on Schooling in Australia 2007, Table 23)*

## AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT FUNDING

The importance of Australian Government funding is clear from the figures presented above in Table 1.

The following Australian Government programs of funding for non-government schools are provided under the *Schools Assistance Act 2008* (the Act):

- General Recurrent Grants, including -
  - Remoteness Loading
  - Distance Education
- Indigenous Education Assistance, including -
  - Indigenous Supplementary Assistance
  - Indigenous Funding Guarantee
- Capital Program
- Targeted Programs, including -
  - Literacy, Numeracy and Special Learning Needs Program
  - Country Areas Program
  - English as a Second Language for New Arrivals Program
  - School Languages Program
- Establishment Assistance
- Short Term Emergency Assistance Program

In addition, new National Partnerships funding is available from 2009 through the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations*.

Each of these programs is described in detail below.

### Funding Agreements

To access programs provided under the Act, each non-state school authority enters into a Funding Agreement with the Australian Government through the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). The Agreement sets out the purposes of the programs and specifies the use of funds and the accountability requirements. Administrative Guidelines produced by DEEWR and statutory Regulations also contain requirements relevant to these programs.

Reflecting different types of assistance (recurrent, capital and targeted), Funding Agreements with DEEWR are entered into by non-state school authorities (Part 4 of the Act); block grant authorities (Part 5) and nominated authorities (aspects of Part 6).

A new Australian Government funding quadrennium (2009 to 2012) commenced on 1 January 2009.

For the 2009-2012 quadrennium, the following conditions of the provision of grant funds apply:

- National School Performance and Transparency requirements, including:
  - National student assessments;
  - National reports on the outcomes of schooling;
  - Individual school information;
  - Reporting to parents; and
  - Publication by schools of information relating to schools.

- National Curriculum - each school is required to implement the national curriculum that is developed by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA);
- Financial accountability – requiring an annual certificate from a Qualified Accountant;
- Financial reporting - the relevant authority for a non-government school, or other non-government body, is required to provide a report or reports, in relation to:
  - each of the programs of financial assistance provided;
  - the financial operations (including the financial viability and funding sources) of the school or other body and, in the case of an approved school system, each school in the system;
- Monitoring - requires that a person authorised in writing by the Minister to have access to and may take copies of or extracts from documents, accounts, records and other documents relevant to the authority and to have access to the premises, with reasonable notice to be given;
- Evaluation - non-government schools and school system authorities are required to participate in program evaluations; and
- Other matters as set out in the Agreement, Administrative Guidelines and Regulations from time to time.

The Agreement for school authorities also requires that DEEWR must be notified in writing of any significant changes in circumstances relating to the Approved Authority of a school.

Schools entered into Agreements at the end of 2008 or in early 2009 for the quadrennial funding period, 2009-2012.

## **General Recurrent Grants**

### ***The SES allocation model***

The Australian Government allocates general recurrent grant (GRG) funds to non-government schools according to a formula which measures the socio-economic status (SES) of the community from which a school draws its students. The SES funding model involves linking student residential addresses to Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) national population Census data to obtain a socio-economic profile of the school community and measure its capacity to support the school.

The SES Index that is used to calculate schools' SES scores measures the income, education and occupation levels of residents within a Census Collection District (CD). The CD is the smallest spatial unit in the Australian Standard Geographical Classification. In urban areas, CDs average about 220 dwellings. In rural areas, the number of dwellings per CD reduces as population densities decrease.

Student residential addresses are collected from each school and mapped to the relevant CDs by a process called 'geocoding'. Each school's community is defined in terms of the CDs from which the school draws its students and the school's SES score is calculated on the basis of the average SES of these CDs. Schools which draw

students from areas of predominantly high SES receive lower levels of funding than schools which draw students from areas of average or low SES.

The SES index relates to family resources and measures household income, occupation and education, with lower SES scores denoting a lower capacity to support a school.

The SES scores translate into percentages of the national Average Government School Recurrent Costs (AGSRC). The AGSRC amounts represent average annual costs relating to the education of a primary student and a secondary student in a government school. The minimum entitlement is 13.7 percent of AGSRC for schools with an SES score of 130 and above. The maximum entitlement is 70 percent of AGSRC for schools with an SES score of 85 and below. Schools with SES scores within this range receive proportional funding based on their individual SES scores. Details are shown at **Appendix 1**.

During 2008, SES scores for all schools were recalibrated on 2006 Census data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics for use in the 2009-2012 quadrennium. Information relating to current SES scores can be accessed at the following website – [https://schools.dest.gov.au/ssp/help/html/ses/funding\\_09\\_12/ses\\_scores\\_indicative.html](https://schools.dest.gov.au/ssp/help/html/ses/funding_09_12/ses_scores_indicative.html)

Additional school information is available at DEEWR's Schools Service Point website where schools can sign on using a designated unique code and password – <https://schools.dest.gov.au/ssp/>

### ***The SES funding arrangements in 2009***

The SES model for recurrent funding was introduced from 2001 (replacing the previous Education Resources Index or ERI model – whereby schools were categorised into one of 12 funding categories based on actual resources available to the school).

In 2009, independent schools are funded according to their SES scores unless they are Funding Maintained (FM) schools (see below for further information about FM schools).

Other exceptions are Special Schools, Special Assistance Schools and Majority Indigenous Student Schools which receive the maximum funding level of 70 percent of AGSRC, equivalent to having an SES score of 85 or less.

For independent schools that are members of systems, funding to the system is based on the aggregate entitlement of the individual member schools of the system.

In 2009, the final AGSRC amounts are as follows:

- \$ 8 380 (Primary)
- \$10 646 (Secondary)

These amounts are the final figures used in 2009 and are based on 2007-08 financial year data. The next applicable AGSRC amounts for primary and secondary students will be determined in late 2010 (based on 2008-09 data) and will be used to adjust the initial per capita rates for 2010 (by means of the supplementation process) and to establish the initial per capita rates for 2011.

The 2009 per capita rates, based on the final AGSRC amounts, are shown at **Appendix 1**.

All final AGSRC rates for the years 2001 to 2009 are shown at **Appendix 2**.

### ***Funding Guarantee***

Where a school's recalibrated SES score for the 2009-2012 quadrennium, based on 2006 Census data, results in a lower funding level than previously applied, the change is phased-in under Funding Guarantee arrangements that ensure the previous dollar amounts are allocated. The previous rates apply until, through indexation, future SES rates are calculated that are higher, at which time these higher rates will then apply.

### ***Funding Maintained Schools***

With the implementation of the SES funding arrangements in 2001, the Australian Government ensured that no schools were financially disadvantaged by the then new SES funding system. Schools that would have received less funding under the SES mechanism had their year 2000 (ERI) per student funding level maintained. Each of these school's year 2000 dollar rates are adjusted annually (supplemented) in line with the growth rate in the AGSRC figures. These schools are known as Funding Maintained (FM) schools.

The 2009 per capita rates that apply to FM schools are shown in **Appendix 3**.

### ***Remoteness Loading***

In addition, a Remoteness Loading is calculated and applied by DEEWR to general recurrent grant funding. Definitions of remoteness, including 'very remote', are based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+). Schools do not need to apply separately for this loading as it is a component of the general recurrent grant.

### ***School Enrolments and Grants***

Australian Government GRGs for both SES funded and FM schools are paid according to the number of students at the school at the time of the Australian Government Census of schools (normally held in early August). Full-fee paying Overseas Students are not eligible for GRGs. More information about which Overseas Students are exempt from 'full-fee paying' status and are thereby eligible for GRGs can be obtained from the following DEEWR website –

[https://schools.dest.gov.au/ssp/help/html/coi/student\\_definitions.html#Not\\_Overseas\\_Students](https://schools.dest.gov.au/ssp/help/html/coi/student_definitions.html#Not_Overseas_Students)

### ***GRG Payment Details***

Payments of GRGs occur as follows:

- in January: 50% of initial entitlement
- in July: 25% of initial entitlement
- in October: 25% - plus any adjustment for current year student numbers and supplementation based on the latest AGSRC figures.

Schools with a rise or fall of 15% or more in their enrolment at the beginning of the school year should notify DEEWR, so that adjustments can be made to the January and July payments. Increases need to be notified by 1 March for adjustments to be made in the July payment. Increases notified later than this date will be dealt with in the October payment. Notifications of decreases in enrolments will be dealt with as they are notified.

It should be noted that payments are made through the Queensland Government. The Australian Government has no constitutional authority to make direct payments to non-government schools but uses its powers under various sections of the Australian Constitution to make payments to States for schools. These powers have been articulated in various States Grants Acts and Schools Assistance Acts.

### ***Financial Questionnaire***

Schools receiving GRGs are required to complete the Non-Government Schools Financial Questionnaire (FQ). The 2009 FQ relates to the 2008 school year. Since 2001, the FQ has not been used as a basis for determining relative funding levels.

The FQ is distributed and collected via the internet. The return date is 30 April.

Schools can access the FQ at the following website: <https://schools.dest.gov.au/ssp/>

### ***Accountability***

Schools receiving Australian Government GRG must account for the grants both financially and educationally.

Financial accountability requires the submission of a Financial Accountability Certificate, signed by a person who is authorised to sign on behalf of the school authority and a qualified accountant (independent of the school) stating that the funds have been expended in the Program year and in accordance with the relevant agreement. The Certificate is provided and lodged electronically through the DEEWR School Services Point (SSP). The Certificate for the 2008 school year was due by 30 June 2009.

Educational accountability for 2009 involves the following:

- participation in the National Report on Schooling in Australia (ANR), including the provision of reports of a kind required by the Minister addressing the requirements for performance information that are set out in the Regulations as in force from time to time
- the provision of other reports as required by the Minister in relation to financial assistance provided under the Act
- participation in evaluations of the outcomes of programs of financial assistance.

Completion of the annual School Census and FQ are also part of the accountability process.

### ***New Schools***

The primary eligibility requirement for a non-government school to receive Australian Government general recurrent funding is that it has State recognition. In Queensland, this means accreditation as a school by the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board (NSSAB) and State Government funding eligibility status.

There are no Australian Government requirements for minimum or maximum enrolment limits.

Approval for funding under the GRG Program is required for new schools. This is obtained following the completion of an application form that can be downloaded from the DEEWR website.

No advance notice is required; however, it should be noted that there are significant lead times in relation to the accreditation of new schools or extension of levels of education in existing accredited schools in Queensland.

Australian Government GRGs for a new school are determined after the submission of student address data. This data is used to calculate an SES score for the school. The SES score determines the school's funding as outlined above in the section on the SES Allocation Model.

### ***Establishment Grants***

Establishment Grants provided additional assistance to newly commencing schools for the first two years of their operation. Existing schools that were not in receipt of Australian Government GRGs and new schools formed by the amalgamation or separation of existing funded schools were not eligible. Eligible schools were paid establishment grants automatically.

From 2008, Establishment Grants are being phased out and will cease by the end of 2009.

For the 2009 year (the last year), these grants will be \$250 per capita for each full time equivalent student for the second year of a school's operation. Only schools that commenced in 2008 and received these grants for their first year of operation are entitled to receive funding in 2009.

### ***SES Score Reviews***

The Approved Authority for a school can apply in writing for a review of the school's SES score where it is considered the school's SES score has not been determined correctly or if the score is no longer accurate because of a significant change in the SES of the school's community. A school's raw (not rounded) SES score will have to change by at least one whole number before the school will receive additional funding or have its funding reduced. A FM school that believes its SES score has decreased to the extent that it would receive a higher rate of per capita funding - if it was funded on the basis of an SES score - may also apply for a review of its SES score.

Where the SES score changes by at least one whole number as a result of a review, the school will be funded on the basis of the SES score that results from the review. If the new SES score results in an increase of GRG funding then the date of effect is no earlier than 1 January of the year of the review. Phasing in will continue to apply.

If the new SES score results in a decrease in GRG funding, the change in funding will be no earlier than 1 January of the year following the application for review. Phasing in will not apply. If the school is a FM school and the outcome of the review determines an SES score, the school will not be able to retain its Funding Maintained level even if that funding is more favourable.

### ***Distance Education***

For a school to be eligible to attract distance education funding at a rate of 13.7% of AGSRC per full time equivalent student, the following conditions must apply:

- The student must reside in the state in which the school is located.

- The student must not be a home education student.
- The school must have state or territory recognition for the provision of distance education and also provide day attendance school services.

### **Supplementation**

The Australian Government supplements GRGs retrospectively each year to account for price movements.

The measure used for supplementation has varied over time including annual movement in the Schools Price Index, the Community Standard, and currently the AGSRC.

From 2001 the supplementation of primary and secondary grants has been based on the separate movement in primary and secondary AGSRC rather than a single supplementation measure applied to both primary and secondary GRGs.

Supplementation is paid as soon as possible following publication of the most current primary and secondary AGSRC by the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs – usually in October. In 2009, the supplementation percentage increases are equal to the movements in the AGSRC from 2007 to 2008. The Federal Parliament is also required, under the Act, to make a regulation to enable the payment adjustments that are based on supplementation, to be made. In 2009, the regulation was made and declared during September.

### **Indigenous Education Assistance**

#### ***Indigenous Supplementary Assistance (ISA)***

From 1 January 2009, certain programs of Indigenous assistance have been consolidated into a single Indigenous Supplementary Assistance (ISA) program. ISA will replace payments previously made to non-government schools through Indigenous Education Agreements under the provisions of the *Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000*.

The ISA is calculated by DEEWR and paid to schools with the usual GRG payments.

The ISA is allocated on a per Indigenous student enrolment basis, with a higher per capita rate for secondary students and schools in remote/very remote areas.

The final ISA rates applying in 2009, following supplementation, are shown in the following table:

<b>Table 2: Indigenous Supplementary Assistance</b>		
<b>Level of education</b>	<b>Funding category</b>	<b>Per student rate</b>
Primary	Non-remote	\$1 668
Primary	Remote	\$4 012
Secondary	Non-remote	\$2 381
Secondary	Remote	\$4 656

The ISA indexation (supplementation) and remoteness classifications are aligned with those that apply to GRGs.

Complementing the ISA is the introduction of a transitional Indigenous Funding Guarantee (IFG) that ensures no schools are worse off in 2009 as a result of the new arrangements. The IFG is capped and ceases when a school's entitlement exceeds its 2008 final entitlement (sum of GRG and ISA).

### ***Majority Indigenous Student School (MISS)***

In relation to general recurrent grants funding, a new category of school from 2009, the Majority Indigenous Student School (MISS), is entitled to receive the maximum funding level equivalent to 70 per cent of AGSRC.

To be a MISS, a school must have 80 per cent or more Indigenous enrolments or be a 'very remote' school with 50 per cent or more Indigenous enrolments.

## **Capital Funding**

### ***Capital Grants Program***

The Capital Grants Program for independent schools in Queensland is administered by Independent Schools Queensland Block Grant Authority (ISQBGA) Pty Ltd. Such Block Grant Authorities (BGAs) are recognised under Part 5 of the Act.

Capital funding is an application based program with the allocation of funds being provided on the bases of relative educational need and a demonstrated financial need for assistance. Eligible schools are then ranked according to their SES score for priority of funding.

Total capital funding under this program for Queensland independent schools is currently approximately \$15 million per year.

Applications for assistance are invited annually. Further details can be obtained from the ISQBGA by phoning (07) 3839 0225 or (07) 3839 2142 or accessing the ISQBGA website at <http://www.aisq.qld.edu.au/Page.aspx?element=74&category=1>

### ***Trade Training Centres in Schools Program***

From 2008, the Australian Government has committed \$2.5 billion over 10 years to enable all secondary schools to apply for funding of between \$500 000 and \$1.5 million for Trade Training Centres to help increase the proportion of students achieving Year 12 or an equivalent qualification.

Funding is provided through an annual national application process to build or upgrade metal, woodwork, automotive, building and construction, electro-technology and other trade workshops for secondary school students. Funding extends to technical facilities such as commercial cookery and hairdressing facilities and also funds the purchase or replacement of a range of equipment.

Details about the application process are available at the following web address:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/TradeTrainingCentres/Pages/default.aspx>

While applications are made to DEEWR, schools are required to first discuss their intention to apply with ISQBGA.

### **Targeted Programs**

The following targeted programs are based on a four-year funding period as provided for under *Part 6, Schools Assistance Act 2008*:

- Literacy, Numeracy and Special Learning Needs Program which assists the most disadvantaged students including students with disabilities;
- Country Areas Program which assists geographically isolated children;
- English as a Second Language – New Arrivals Program to assist newly arrived students of non-English speaking backgrounds;
- School Languages Program to improve learning outcomes of students learning languages other than English;
- Short Term Emergency Assistance to support the operation of schools that have been affected by unforeseen, emergency circumstances; and
- Establishment Assistance, payable in 2009 only, for non-government schools that commenced in 2008.

ISQ is the nominated authority for independent schools in Queensland for the administration of the first four of the programs listed above. Each year, ISQ seeks applications from member schools for funding under these programs. Further details about these programs can be obtained from the ISQ website.

### **National Partnerships Funding**

The National Partnerships (NP) funding arises from Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed reforms to Federal-State financial relations supported through the *Federal Financial Relations Act 2009*.

NP payments are provided to facilitate and/or reward States (and Territories) that deliver on nationally-significant reforms and involve State co-investments in support of the reforms.

The current NPs relevant to school education include:

- Low Socio-Economic Status School Communities (\$1.1 billion; Queensland independent schools – estimated \$5.5m over seven years)
- Literacy and Numeracy (\$540 million; Queensland independent schools – estimated \$2.0m over three years)
- Improving Teacher Quality (\$550 million; Queensland independent schools – estimated \$1.4m over two years)

Bilateral Agreements and Implementation Plans (BAIP) for each NP are negotiated between the Australian Government and each of the States. These BAIP include all school sectors. ISQ has been involved in negotiations to establish projects that can deliver the expected outcomes through independent schools in Queensland.

Other than for the Low Socio-Economic Status School Communities NP, funding will generally not involve direct grants to schools. ISQ will administer the NP funding and provide information to schools on projects and programs as these are developed.

## QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT FUNDING

The Queensland State Government has supported the establishment and operations of independent schools for decades.

The main ongoing forms of financial assistance for schools include:

- State Recurrent Funding –
  - State Recurrent Grants
  - Students with Disabilities Targeted Program
- Capital Assistance –
  - State Capital Assistance Scheme
  - External Infrastructure Subsidy Scheme

The Government provides other recurrent and capital funding programs of a minor or temporary nature not covered in this booklet.

In addition to the following information, further details about State Government grants and allowances are also available at the following web address <http://education.qld.gov.au/finance/grants/fund/garp/html/nssgrant.html>

### State Recurrent Funding

In the 2009-10 State budget, the State Government has allocated some \$435.7 million in recurrent grants funding for non-state schools.

#### *Determining the Recurrent Funding Quantum*

The recurrent funding quantum for non-state schools is determined by the “basket and nexus” mechanism by which average per student funding for non-state schools is based on a percentage (the nexus) of average per student funding (a notional figure) for the state sector. The nexus is currently 21.26%.

The notional per student funding in the state sector is calculated on the basis of the value of a basket of services for state schools determined at the time of the State budget.

The net amount in the basket includes departmental appropriation for all education service outputs but excludes a number of costs unrelated to school services, capital funding, Commonwealth funding for state education, certain accounting related items and funds for services provided equally to the state and non-state school sectors (refer to **Appendix 4** for the 2009-10 basket and nexus calculations).

The value of the basket is divided by the average weighted state school enrolments for the current and next years to produce a notional per state student funding rate. In 2009-10, this figure is \$7 025 per student. The non-state per student funding is determined by taking 21.26% of the notional state per student funding. In 2009–10, this amounts to some \$1 493 per student. The non-state per student funding is then multiplied by the average weighted non-state enrolments for the current and next years to calculate the recurrent funding pool available for non-state schools (see **Appendix 4**).

Under these current arrangements, when the State Government announces a new initiative that will benefit both state and non-state sectors, the nexus rate is applied to

the state sector's new funding to determine the level of new funding to go to the non-state school sector. In this event, both amounts will be included in the new initiative funding.

In addition to the recurrent funding pool calculated through the basket and nexus mechanism, there are other recurrent funds allocated to the non-state sector, mainly as a result of initiative funding being granted for non-state schools by the Government. For example, additional funds are presently allocated to assist in the transport of students to non-state schools. In the main, such initiative funds have generally been targeted funds for specific purposes.

### ***Disbursement of Recurrent Funding***

The 'basket nexus' funding is allocated to two programs - the State Recurrent Grants (SRG) Program and the Students with Disabilities Targeted (SWD) Program.

Though most of the funding is allocated to the SRG Program, the SWD Program nevertheless provides significant funding towards the higher costs of educating those students identified as students with disabilities. In 2009-10, the SWD Program has been allocated \$26.5 million.

### ***State Recurrent Grants Program***

State recurrent grants are disbursed to schools on the basis of per student rates comprised of per capita and needs-based components.

Prior to 2009, the per capita component comprised 77.5% of the total funding pool and the needs component comprised the remaining 22.5%. From 2009, these proportions are changing each year according to the overall growth in the quantum of funding (budget) until the needs component reaches 40% of the total funding available. In 2009, the per capita component decreased to 76.8% while the needs component increased to 23.2%. In 2010, the needs component is estimated to increase to around 28% of funds.

Different per capita base rates apply for primary (inc. Prep) and secondary school students with the per capita amount for secondary set at 1.5 of the primary rate. The per capita rates have been fixed at the dollar amounts set in 2008, that is, \$1 055 per primary student and \$1 583 per secondary student.

The needs funding consists of four sub-pools, with 80% related to school characteristics and 20% relating to student characteristics - allocated on the following basis:

- 37.5% individual school SRI score (School Resource Index);
- 37.5% individual school SES score (DEEWR measure of school resources);
- 5% school isolation measured by two indices:
  - an index measuring the distance of the school location from Brisbane and major urban centres of 50 000 or more (80% weighting)
  - an index reflecting allowances based on the Catholic isolated teacher allowance scheme for all locations (20% weighting)
- 20% on student needs with weightings for each category of student as follows:
  - number of students with disabilities – weighted by a factor of 5
  - boarding fee concessions granted for economic hardship reasons – weighted by a factor of 3
  - number of Indigenous students – weighted by a factor of 1

- number of isolated students – weighted by a factor of 1
- number of students requiring English as a Second Language (ESL) tuition – weighted by a factor of 1

Data on the number of students at each school in each of the student needs categories are collected through the annual data survey of non-state schools. The collection is conducted late in February each year by the Queensland Non-State Schools Accreditation Board (NSSAB).

The NSSAB website address is <http://www.nssab.qld.edu.au/>

The application of the disbursement formulae results in unique primary and secondary per student funding rates for each non-state school.

Rates for all schools are available from the state department's website at - [http://education.qld.gov.au/finance/grants/fund/garp/docs/all\\_rates.xls](http://education.qld.gov.au/finance/grants/fund/garp/docs/all_rates.xls)

The student needs data used in the calculation of the rates always lag by one year e.g. the 2008 data were used in the calculation of the 2009 rates.

The School Resource Index (SRI) is calculated from financial data provided annually in June by each school to the State Minister for Education. This information is the same as that supplied to the Commonwealth DEEWR each April in the Financial Questionnaire.

State recurrent grants are currently paid through four quarterly payments of around 25% each of the total annual funds, a payment of residual 'buffer' funds in June and, occasionally, a supplementary payment, if required to manage annual budget variations or adjustments.

The current schedule of payments is as follows:

<b>Payment</b>	<b>Target Date for Payment</b>	<b>Proportion of Allocation Paid</b>	<b>Enrolments</b>
Payment 1	9 January	3/12 of estimated annual allocation	Funded enrolments counted in the February Survey Data Collection of the <u>previous</u> year
Payment 2	29 May	6/12 of annual allocation less January payment.	Funded enrolments counted in February Survey Data Collection of the <u>current</u> year
Payment 3	19 June	Share of residual funds for the financial year.	Funded enrolments counted in February Survey Data Collection of the <u>current</u> year
Payment 4	9 July	3/12 of annual allocation	Funded enrolments counted in February Survey Data Collection of the <u>current</u> year
Payment 5	7 September	3/12 of annual allocation	Funded enrolments counted in February Survey Data Collection of the <u>current</u> year

### ***Students with Disabilities Targeted Program***

The SWD Program supports the education of students with disabilities in non-state schools and aims to promote the educational outcomes of these students.

Funds are allocated in accordance with the approved policy statement that is accessible on the state department's website at -

<http://education.qld.gov.au/finance/grants/fund/garp/html/nss-swd.html>

Non-state school students with disabilities who are verified with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD), hearing impairment, intellectual impairment, physical impairment, social emotional disorders (SED), speech language impairment, vision impairment, or combinations of any of these, are eligible to be funded.

The funds are provided by the State Government to two non-state school authorities, ISQ and the Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC). The split of available funds between ISQ and QCEC is determined each year on the basis of the number of students with disabilities reported in each sector in the most recent data survey of non-state schools undertaken by the NSSAB.

These authorities administer the program on behalf of the Government, allocating direct grants to schools and funding centralised and/or regionalised services accessible to schools. They also account to the Government for educational and financial purposes.

Funds are paid to schools by the non-state authorities at various times according to conditions set out in the approved policy governing the program.

### **Capital Assistance Programs**

The State Government currently provides capital assistance to non-state schools under the provisions of the *Education (Capital Assistance) Act 1993* (the Act), the *Education (Capital Assistance) Regulation 2005* and related Guidelines.

Currently assistance is provided through two main ongoing programs:

- the State Capital Assistance Scheme (SCAS)
- the External Infrastructure Subsidy Scheme (EIS)

The 2009-10 State budget has allocated \$47.6 million to SCAS and \$5.5 million to EIS. These allocations are indexed annually in line with cost increases measured by the State Government's building price index (BPI).

In addition to these major programs, residual State Government assistance provided under the 2006-07 *Schools of Tomorrow* initiative continues to be allocated under the following programs: New Schools, Asbestos Removal and Replacement, *Cooler Schools*, Information Communication and Technology Infrastructure, and School Community Development projects.

### ***State Capital Assistance Scheme (SCAS)***

Under SCAS, eligible non-state schools may apply for assistance for the planning, construction, alteration, extension, renovation, relocation or upgrading of:

- educational facilities for students;

- boarding facilities for students including accommodation in the facilities for persons supervising students in the facilities; or
- if prior approval is obtained for the particular project, residential accommodation for teachers in remote areas of the State.

Assistance under the SCAS takes the form of a one-off grant for each approved project. For independent schools, payment of assistance may be sought when approved projects are 25% complete.

Further details are provided on the state department's website at - <http://education.qld.gov.au/finance/grants/fund/garp/docs/nsscypass-guide.pdf>

### ***External Infrastructure Subsidy Scheme (EIS)***

Non-state schools are required to fund the investigation, design and construction of relevant infrastructure external to their site, in accordance with the conditions and requirements of development approval processes of local governments. Non-state schools are also required to pay headworks contributions and other fees as levied by local governments as part of any development application.

External infrastructure generally falls into one of the following categories:

- services
- transport; and
- streetscape

This program assists non-state schools through subsidisation of up to 50% to meet a range of external infrastructure costs associated with capital works projects including, amongst others:

- water supply, stormwater drainage and sewerage headworks contributions
- road widening, bicycle paths, footpaths, traffic signage, etc.
- passenger pick-up and set down areas
- disability access
- trees and other planting, lighting, etc.
- environmental and park levies

Further details are provided on the state department's website at - <http://education.qld.gov.au/finance/grants/fund/garp/docs/nssextinfras-guide.pdf>

### ***Administration of the Programs***

Programs of capital assistance are administered on behalf of the Government by two Capital Assistance Authorities (CAAs), established under the Act. These legal entities are the Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ) Block Grant Authority nominated by ISQ and the Queensland Catholic Capital Assistance Authority nominated by the QCEC.

The annual funds are split between the two CAAs on the basis of the total enrolments in each sector. The enrolments are weighted to reflect different standard facilities requirements for primary and secondary education, the relative resource needs of schools and building cost variations reflecting school location.

Accredited non-state schools that are eligible for government funding and affiliated with a CAA may apply for assistance to the relevant CAA. The CAAs receive and assess applications according to legislated criteria and make recommendations to the Minister for Education and Training who decides whether to approve the applications.

The CAAs make payments to schools, monitor the progress of projects and carry out other functions as set out in the Act.

Funds are allocated to each CAA to assist with the costs associated with the administration of the programs.

CAAs notify schools by 30 September each year of the dates in the following year by which applications must be submitted.

Further information about these programs can be obtained from the ISQ Block Grant Authority by phoning (07) 3839 0225 or (07) 3839 2142 and by reference to the state department's website at –

<http://education.qld.gov.au/finance/grants/fund/garp/html/nssgrant.html>

## **OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE**

### **Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme**

The Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme (AIC) is an Australian Government scheme established under the Federal *Student Assistance Act 1973*.

The aim of the AIC is to assist Australian children without reasonable daily access to an appropriate state school because of geographical isolation. Families in isolated areas incur additional costs to educate their children. The AIC Scheme provides financial assistance in the form of allowances to alleviate such costs.

An appropriate state school is one that offers tuition at the year or grade for which the student is qualified to enrol.

Though DEEWR is responsible for AIC policy, Centrelink conducts assessments, processes claims and makes payments under the DEEWR–Centrelink Business Partnership Agreement.

Further details are available at the following websites:

[http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school\\_education/programmes\\_funding/forms\\_guidelines/assistance\\_for\\_isolated\\_children\\_scheme\\_policy\\_guidelines/](http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school_education/programmes_funding/forms_guidelines/assistance_for_isolated_children_scheme_policy_guidelines/)

[http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/isolated\\_children.htm](http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/isolated_children.htm)

### **Textbook and Resource Allowance**

The Textbook and Resource Allowance (TRA) is a Queensland Government student allowance designed to assist parents/caregivers to offset the cost of textbooks and other learning materials associated with the education of their secondary school age children.

As the TRA is provided as assistance to parents, use of the allowance by schools requires parental consent. Principals must ensure that all appropriate entitlements of TRA are passed on to parents.

To be eligible a student must:

- attend an accredited Queensland non-state school that is eligible for government funding; and
- be enrolled in Years 8-12 or an ungraded secondary or special education program and be at least 13 years of age on 1 January.

In 2009, TRA annual allowances are \$100 per student in Years 8-10 and \$220 per student in Years 11-12.

## **CONCLUSION**

ISQ and ISQBGA can be contacted to discuss any of the funding programs mentioned in this booklet.

On behalf of its member schools, ISQ continues to:

- monitor and influence developments in government funding policy and procedures
- negotiate with Australian and Queensland Governments on sector level funding allocations and agreements
- facilitate schools' access to funding programs
- disseminate relevant information to school authorities, and
- advise on all school funding issues including accountability and other compliance matters.

Feedback on this booklet is welcomed.

Comments may be forwarded to [reception@aisq.qld.edu.au](mailto:reception@aisq.qld.edu.au)

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**APPENDIX 1: Final 2009 SES per Capita Funding Rates for Primary and Secondary Education**

<b>SES Score</b>	<b>SES % of AGSRC</b>	<b>Primary Rate \$</b>	<b>Secondary Rate \$</b>
> 130	13.7	1 149	1 459
129	15.0	1 257	1 597
128	16.2	1 358	1 725
127	17.5	1 467	1 864
126	18.7	1 568	1 991
125	20.0	1 676	2 130
124	21.2	1 777	2 257
123	22.5	1 886	2 396
122	23.7	1 987	2 524
121	25.0	2 095	2 662
120	26.2	2 196	2 790
119	27.5	2 305	2 928
118	28.7	2 406	3 056
117	30.0	2 514	3 194
116	31.2	2 615	3 322
115	32.5	2 724	3 460
114	33.7	2 825	3 588
113	35.0	2 933	3 727
112	36.2	3 034	3 854
111	37.5	3 143	3 993
110	38.7	3 244	4 121
109	40.0	3 352	4 259

<b>SES Score</b>	<b>SES % of AGSRC</b>	<b>Primary Rate \$</b>	<b>Secondary Rate \$</b>
108	41.2	3 453	4 387
107	42.5	3 562	4 525
106	43.7	3 663	4 653
105	45.0	3 771	4 791
104	46.2	3 872	4 919
103	47.5	3 981	5 057
102	48.7	4 082	5 185
101	50.0	4 190	5 323
100	51.2	4 291	5 451
99	52.5	4 400	5 590
98	53.7	4 501	5 717
97	55.0	4 609	5 856
96	56.2	4 710	5 984
95	57.5	4 819	6 122
94	58.7	4 920	6 250
93	60.0	5 028	6 388
92	61.2	5 129	6 516
91	62.5	5 238	6 654
90	63.7	5 339	6 782
89	65.0	5 447	6 920
88	66.2	5 548	7 048
87	67.5	5 657	7 187
86	68.7	5 758	7 314
< 85	70.0	5 866	7 453

## APPENDIX 2: Final AGSRC Rates 2001 to 2009

AGSRC Rates - Final					
Year	Primary		Secondary		FY Data
	Rate	Annual % Change	Rate	Annual % Change	
2001	5,378		7,101		1999-00
2002	5,657	5.2%	7,469	5.2%	2000-01
2003	6,056	7.1%	8,021	7.4%	2001-02
2004	6,580	8.7%	8,595	7.2%	2002-03
2005	6,787	3.1%	8,994	4.6%	2003-04
2006	7,216	6.3%	9,319	3.6%	2004-05
2007	7,614	5.5%	9,724	4.3%	2005-06
2008	8,044	5.6%	10,061	3.5%	2006-07
2009	8,380	4.2%	10,646	5.8%	2007-08

Note: Final 2010 rates will be available around October 2010 based on 2008-09 data.

**APPENDIX 3: Final 2009 ERI per Capita Funding Rates for Primary and Secondary Education**

<b>Funding Category</b>	<b>% of AGSRC Primary</b>	<b>Primary Rate \$</b>	<b>% of AGSRC Secondary</b>	<b>Secondary Rate \$</b>
1	11.8	989	14.2	1 512
1/3	14.0	1 174	15.6	1 661
2	15.7	1 316	18.9	2 013
3	19.6	1 643	21.9	2 332
3/5	19.7	1 651	21.9	2 332
4	23.9	2 003	28.7	3 056
5	29.0	2 431	32.2	3 429
6	32.0	2 682	35.7	3 801
10/6	34.7	2 908	38.8	4 131
7	35.0	2 933	39.1	4 163
8	38.7	3 244	43.2	4 600
9	43.8	3 671	48.8	5 196
10	47.5	3 981	53.0	5 643
11	51.6	4 325	57.5	6 122
12	56.0	4 693	62.4	6 644

#### APPENDIX 4: Basket – Nexus Calculation 2009-10

Treasury Controlled Output Appropriation: Total DET	\$5 271 584 000	A
Less Total Exclusions	\$1 232 953 000	B
= Net Basket (notional allocation for state school services)	\$4 038 631 000	C = A-B
Weighted State School Enrolments (2008, projected 2009)	574 900.7	D
Average Notional Cost Per Weighted State School Enrolment	\$7 024.92	E = C/D
Nexus Funding Rate per Weighted Non-State School Enrolment #	\$1 493.50	F = E*21.26%
Weighted Non-State School Enrolments (projected 2009 & 2010)	291 745.0	G
Basket Nexus Funding (for non-state school services)	\$435 720 526	F*G

# Nexus percentage rate 21.26%

Note: Source of figures - DET 2009-10 budget briefing





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