

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR THE DEFENCE OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

Press Release 1017

The Rich are getting Richer

The 'Needs' policies of the last sixty years are broken.

Figures provided to Senate Budget Estimate 2022-23 show that NSW Independent schools were funded at 84.6% of their SRS by the Commonwealth Government in 2023 instead of the legislated target of 80%.

The new figures show that 52 Independent schools with a median taxable family income of \$200,00 or more will be over-funded by \$353 million from 2022 to 2028 by the Commonwealth Government. Of these, just 13 of these schools will be over-funded by \$180 million. The 52 schools will receive \$2.4 billion in funding by the Commonwealth over the period.

The most over-funded schools are St. Augustine's College, Northern Beaches Christian School, Trinity Grammar, MLC School and Newington College (Table 1). Over-funding figures for other schools are in Attachment Table A1 which can be downloaded below.

Table 1: Most Over-Funded NSW Private Schools

School	Median Taxable Family Income 2023 (\$)	Commonwealth Funding 2022- 2028 (\$)	Over-Funding 2022-2028 (\$)
St Augustine's College	304,000	56,239,671	22,079,628
Northern Beaches Christian School	280,000	41,009,948	17,393,032
Trinity Grammar	259,000	85,198,078	16,627,869
MLC School	254,000	56,239,671	14,890,628
Newington College	371,000	52,944,952	13,424,107
William Clarke College	231,000	84,676,609	13,243,597
Newcastle Grammar	308,000	36,803,257	12,940,422
Hunter Valley Grammar	222,000	65,060,769	12,699,038
Loreto Kirribilli	418,000	38,156,312	11,595,708
Central Coast Grammar	243,000	69,964,337	11,448,922
Inaburra School	261,000	47,709,053	11,332,852
Oxford Falls Grammar	298,000	40,808,709	10,238,504
Loreto Normanhurst	287,000	34,217,761	10,232,925

Source: See Attachment

These figures demonstrate that NSW Independent schools were funded at 84.6% of their SRS by the Commonwealth Government in 2023 instead of the legislated target of 80%.

The over-funding of the schools attended by the children of the rich is in stark contrast to the under-funding of NSW public schools. Every public school is vastly under-funded. NSW public schools are only funded at 88.7% of their SRS in 2024. The under-funding amounts to \$1.9 billion a year. This is entirely due to under-funding by the NSW Government. Its funding of public schools is only at 68.7% instead of the current benchmark of 80%.ⁱ

A more extensive analysis of the NSW rich school over funding is available on the Save Our School website at <https://saveourschools.com.au/funding/private-schools-serving-richest-nsw-families-over-funded-by-millions/#more-5551>

The only way around this problem is to follow the Scandinavian countries and withdraw public funding from private schools.

State Aid for public schools only!

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<http://www.3cr.org.au/dogs>**

ⁱ Trevor Cobbold, *Private Schools Serving Richest NSW Families Over-Funded by Millions*, at <https://saveourschools.com.au/funding/private-schools-serving-richest-nsw-families-over-funded-by-millions/#more-5551> accessed 21 June 2024.