

Independent Schools: Choice in Schooling



**Independent Schools
Queensland**

choice & diversity



229

INDEPENDENT
SCHOOLS

15.9%

QUEENSLAND
SCHOOL
ENROLMENTS

140,000+

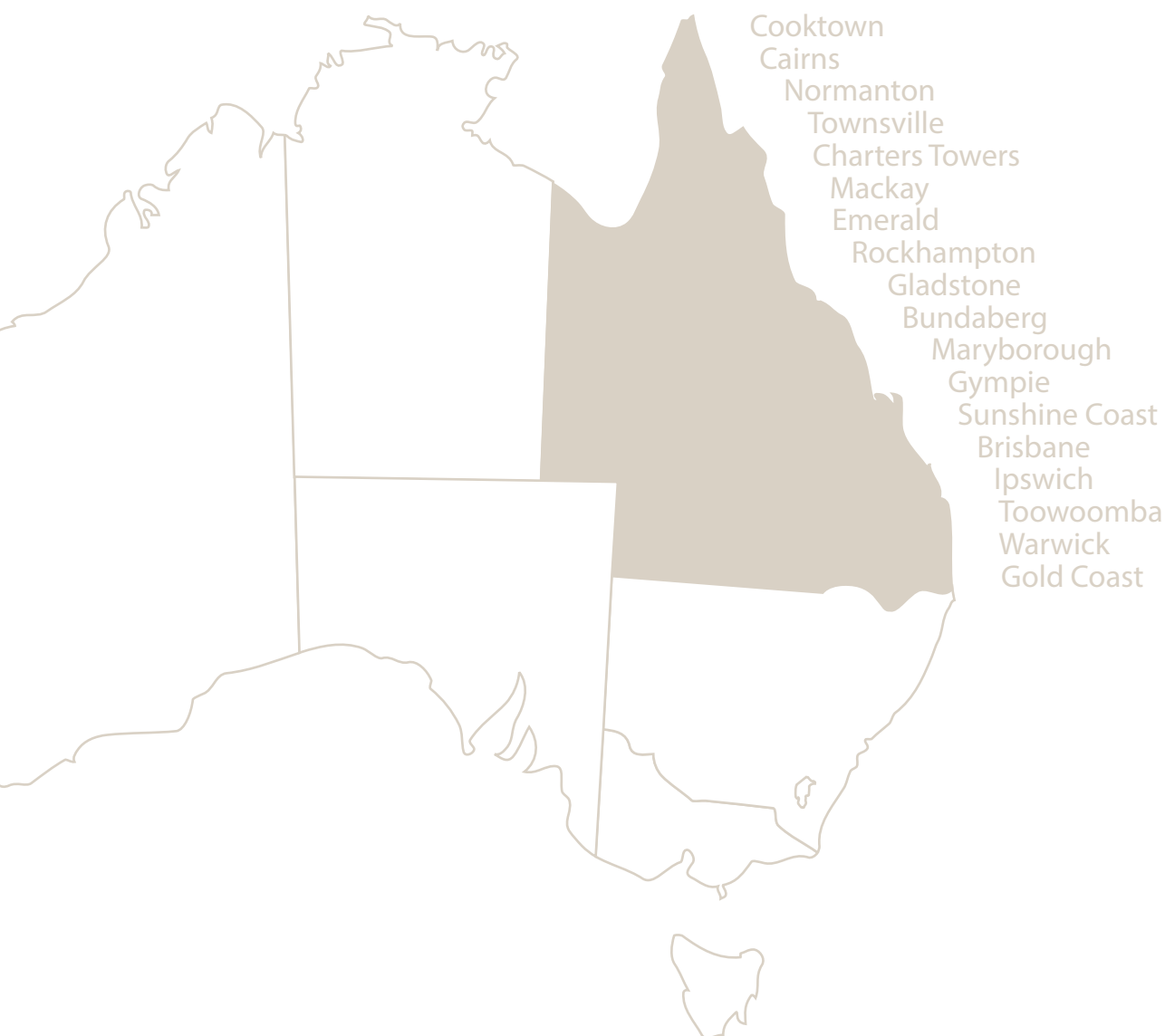
ENROLLED
STUDENTS

Cover: Somerset College.

Images this page, from top:
Silkwood School; St Paul's School.

Queensland's 229 independent schools are a vital part of the state's education system, stretching from Cooktown in Far North Queensland to the southern border and everywhere in between.

Together, these schools educate more than 140,000 students in Queensland – or 15.9 percent of the state's school enrolments and close to 20 percent of Queensland's secondary school enrolments.



Queensland parents have been exercising their right to school choice for as long as some of the state's oldest independent schools have been serving their local communities – more than 150 years.

Independent schools make a significant contribution to the growth and development of Queensland's children through the strong support of their communities and the achievement of excellent educational outcomes.

The Independent Sector

Independent schools are autonomous, not-for-profit institutions run and governed at the local level. Its governing body is autonomous. There are, however, some independent schools with particular church or ethnic affiliations that, although constituted independently, operate within a mutually supportive school system.

Independent schools in receipt of government funding are incorporated not-for-profit organisations.

Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ) is a representative body for independent schools, not a regulator or governing authority.

Choice and Diversity

Independent schools come in all sizes, from small community schools to large Prep to Year 12 schools.

Schools range from those affiliated with Christian, Islamic or Jewish faiths, to schools that promote an educational philosophy or serve particular community groups, such as Indigenous schools or schools for children with disability and/or learning difficulties.

Day schools, boarding schools, co-educational, for girls or boys only; independent schools offer parents a wide choice and share common characteristics:

- providing a well-grounded general education
- fostering students' moral development
- providing students with pastoral care
- promoting discipline
- catering to the needs, aptitudes and interests of the individual student
- developing strong home-school partnerships
- achieving the best possible outcomes for all.

Communities

Queensland independent schools are as diverse as the students they educate and the communities they serve. They cater for families from a variety of social and economic backgrounds and income levels, with the majority in the low-to-mid fee range.

Many independent schools educate international students or specialise in the education of students with disability. There has been strong growth in the number of Special Assistance Schools for students who have disengaged from mainstream schools, and trade training schools that combine senior year studies with practical vocational education and training.

Families of children at independent schools:

- attach a high priority to their children's education
- wish to educate their children at a school of their choice.

Top 5 Reasons Why Parents Choose Independent Schools

1

**PREPARATION FOR
STUDENT TO FULFIL
POTENTIAL IN LATER LIFE**

2

**THE HIGH QUALITY
OF TEACHERS**

3

**SCHOOL SEEMED
RIGHT FOR CHILD'S
INDIVIDUAL NEEDS**

4

GOOD DISCIPLINE

5

**TEACHING
METHODS/
PHILOSOPHY**

Source: ISQ. (2018).
What Parents Want Survey.



Saint Stephen's College



50%

PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS
TO COSTS OF
EDUCATING A CHILD

>33,500

FULL-TIME JOBS
SUPPORTED

Source: AEC Group. (2020).
Economic Significance of Independent
Schools to the Queensland Economy.

Images, from top:
Immanuel Lutheran College
Music Industry College

Values

In choosing independent schools, families are able to exercise three basic freedoms of Australian life: freedom of choice; freedom of assembly; and freedom of worship. They are able to choose schools that articulate the values they believe are important for their children’s healthy educational development.

In promoting these values, independent schools recognise that a quality education is built on a strong home-school partnership. Independent schools support, and are supported by, strong parent and community networks that give direction and purpose to their pastoral roles.

Parents understand the impact and influence education has on a child’s life and are best placed to choose an independent school, from the diverse range on offer, that they believe will bring out the best in their son or daughter. Many families choose different schools for each child to cater for their differing needs and abilities.

Cost

The average cost of educating a child at an independent school is much the same as that of educating a child at a public school. Parents meet approximately 50 percent of the costs of educating a child at an independent school with government funding accounting for the remaining 50 percent (approximately 35 percent from the Federal Government and approximately 15 percent from the State Government).

Parents who send their children to an independent school save the Federal and State Governments millions of dollars annually.

Many independent schools have a long and proud history of offer scholarships and bursaries, particularly to students who may not have otherwise had the opportunity to experience an independent education. A wide range of scholarships are available in areas including academic studies, sport, music, the performing arts, and specialist areas such as innovation and creativity.

Affiliations of Independent Schools

Anglican	24
Assemblies of God	10
Baptist	8
Brethren	1
Catholic (Other)	1
Christian	38
Inter-denominational	6
Islamic	2
Jewish	1
Lutheran	25
Montessori	4
No Religious Affiliation	7
Non-Denominational	42
Other Religious Affiliation	1
Pentecostal	2
Presbyterian	2
Seventh Day Adventist	10
Steiner	5
Uniting Church	7
Other	30
Uniting Church	5
Other	27

Choice and Diversity in Independent Schools

SCHOOL STRUCTURE TYPE	
Combined Primary & Secondary	157
Primary	29
Secondary	43
Special	4
SCHOOL GENDER TYPE	
Co-ed	211
Female	9
Male	9
TYPE OF STUDENTS	
Boarding	32
Fee Paying Overseas	75
Distance Education	10
Indigenous	214
English as an additional language or dialect	109
Students with Disability	193
Disengaged Youth	29

Source: 2022 Non-Government Schools Census
(Commonwealth) February Collection

Independent schools give families the ability to select a school that best serves their child's needs and promotes the values they believe are important.



To read more, visit
www.isq.qld.edu.au
and search:
diversity in schools



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