

## 2020 – Summary Data

### Queensland School Enrolments

School enrolments continue to increase in Queensland, with all sector enrolments increasing 2.8% in the past year from 2019 to 2020.

Enrolments at independent schools increased by 4.5%. Highest growth occurred in secondary enrolments, reflecting in large part, all year levels in secondary gaining full cohorts in 2020. Secondary enrolments increased by 6.2% while primary student enrolments increased by only 0.2%.

- Prep enrolments decreased by 0.8%, or just over 500 students.
- Enrolments into Year 7 increased by 2.3% in the past year, or nearly 1,570 students.
- The year level structure in primary suggests a decrease of Year 7 enrolments into secondary from 2023, unless in-migration from inter-State and overseas offsets lower numbers of students in primary.

### Independent Schools

In the most recent period, from 2019 to 2020, enrolments in Queensland independent schools increased by 5,583.4 students - from 124,554.9 students in 2019 to 130,138.3 students in 2020. This is equivalent to a 4.5% increase and is significantly higher than the growth rate of 2.8% experienced across all schools in Queensland.

The significant increase from 2019 to 2020 can also be traced, in part, to 2007, when the school age of commencement changed resulting in a smaller than normal Prep cohort in 2007. This cohort left the schooling system at the end of 2019, with 2020 being the first time that all year levels from Prep to Year 12 had full cohorts. It is not surprising therefore that from 2019 to 2020 secondary student enrolments increased at significantly higher rate than primary enrolments, 6.1% compared to 2.6% respectively.

In the past year, from 2019 to 2020:

- Despite the decline in Prep enrolments in the State in 2020, independent school Prep enrolments increased by nearly 200 students.
- Year 7 enrolments in independent schools reduced by 1.2%, or just over 150 students, despite Year 7 enrolments in the State increasing by 2.3%.

In 2020 the share of school enrolments gained by independent schools has increased to the highest level ever reported, with independent schools catering for 15.2% of all school students attending Queensland schools (12.0% of primary students and 19.2% of secondary students).

In the past year, in terms of all enrolments, the independent school sector gained 0.3 percentage points, the State sector lost market share, while the Catholic sector maintained its market share.

- Prep and Year 7 intakes reflect more recent choice patterns of parents. Independent schools gained Prep market share, but lost Year 7 market share, as did Catholic schools.

### Indigenous Students

Indigenous student enrolments increased by 575.2 enrolments from 2019 to 2020, increasing from 4,574.8 enrolments in 2019 to 5,150.0 enrolments in 2020 (a 12.6% increase). These students were enrolled in 94% of independent schools and represented 4% of students enrolled in independent schools.

### Boarding Students

In the past year, from 2019 to 2020, boarding student enrolments decreased by 124 students from 3,768 students in 2019 to 3,644 students in 2020 (-3.3%). This is the fourth consecutive year of enrolment decline.

### Indigenous Boarding Students

In 2020 there were 642 Indigenous students enrolled in 30 of the 33 independent boarding schools, with nearly all of these students (640 students) enrolled in secondary schooling. The number of Indigenous boarding students increased from 599 students in 2019 to 642 students in 2020.

### Overseas Students

In 2020 there were 1,699 overseas students enrolled in independent schools in Queensland, a significant decrease of 228 students from 1,927 overseas students in 2019. This followed relative stability in overseas enrolments from 2018 to 2019. Overseas students were enrolled in 81 schools in 2020, compared to 80 schools catering for overseas students in 2019. It could be suggested that the significant decrease of overseas students in 2020 reflects the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Distance Education Students

In 2020 there were 10 independent schools offering distance education. Together these students enrolled 4,002 students, 534 more students than in 2019 (+15.4%).

Consideration of changes in the number of distance education students between the 2020 Non-State Schools Census in February to the 2020 Non-Government School Census in August indicates that much of this growth occurred between February and August 2020 (+500 students). This compares to 163 additional student enrolments gained between February and August 2019. It could be suggested that the higher increase from February to August in 2020 reflects the impact of the pandemic.