

### Independent School Indigenous Enrolments, 2020

Indigenous student enrolments increased by 575.2 FTE enrolments from 2019 to 2020, increasing from 4,574.8 FTE enrolments in 2019 to 5,150.0 FTE 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. Ten years earlier, in 2010, Indigenous students represented 2.9% of students enrolled in independent schools and were enrolled in 86% of independent schools operating at that time.

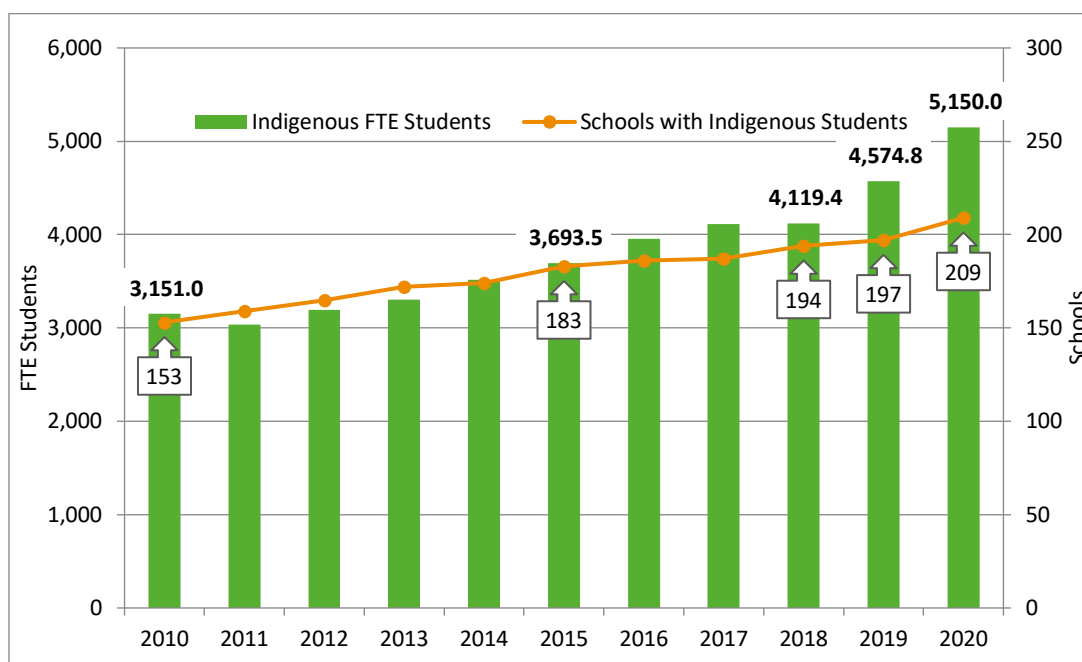
Two schools catered only for Indigenous students while Indigenous students represented at least 75% of enrolments at another seven schools. Just over one-third of Indigenous students (34.8%) were enrolled in schools where less than 5% of enrolments at the school were Indigenous students.

Just under half of Indigenous student enrolments at independent schools attend schools in South-east Queensland (47.5%), with the highest numbers of Indigenous students attending schools in Townsville and Cairn regional areas.

### Enrolments

The number of Indigenous students attending independent schools in Queensland increased significantly in 2020, with Indigenous student enrolments increasing by 575.2 FTE students. In 2020 there were 5,150 full time equivalent (FTE) Indigenous students enrolled, compared to 4,574.8 Indigenous students in 2019 (12.6% increase). These students were catered for by 209 independent schools (refer Figure 1). In the past ten years enrolments have increased by 63%, increasing from 3,151 Indigenous students enrolled in 153 schools in 2010. This represents 1,999 fewer students and 56 fewer schools than in 2020.

**Figure 1: Indigenous Student Enrolments and Number of Providers - Queensland Independent Schools, 2010-20**



Over the five-year period from 2015, when Year 7 transferred to secondary, primary Indigenous enrolments have increased consistently, while secondary Indigenous student enrolments increased each year, except for 2017 to 2018 (refer Table 1).

In the past year, from 2019 to 2020, primary Indigenous student enrolments increased by 141.2 students (7.3% increase), while secondary Indigenous enrolments increased by 434 students from 2019 to 2020 (16.5% increase) (refer Table 1).

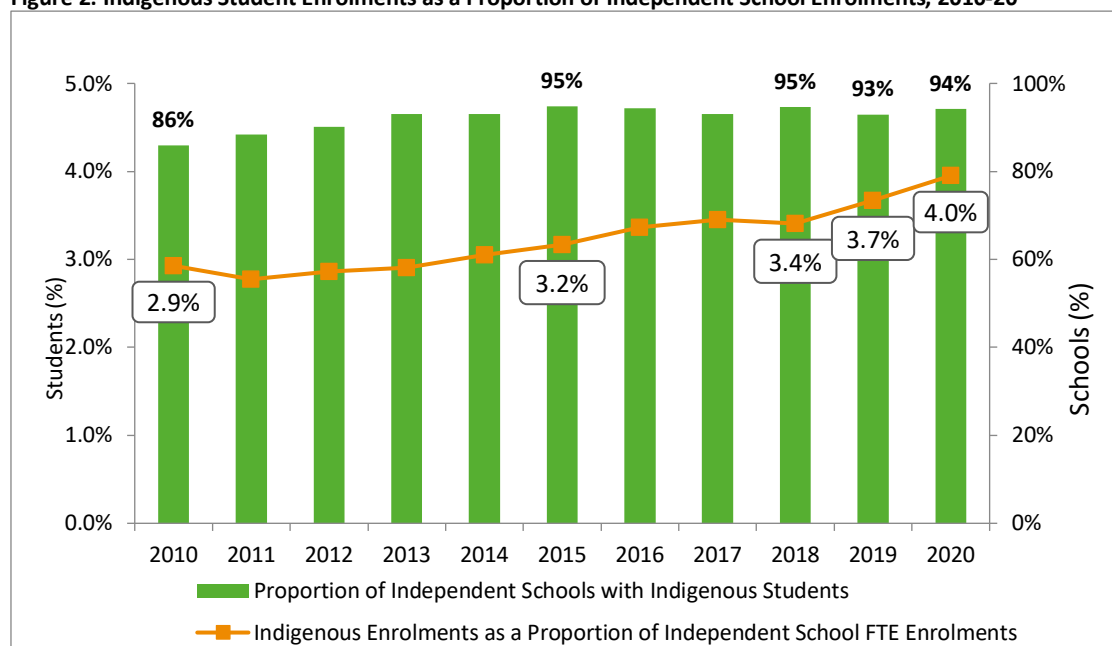
**Table 1: Indigenous Enrolment History, 2015-20**

Year	Prep	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Ungr.	TOTAL	Pri	Sec
2015	233	210	221	211	222	213	225	377	257	368	369	420.5	362	5	3,693.5	1,538.6	2,154.9
2016	227	235	214	224	216	237	236	402	434	317.2	415	456	340.8	3.4	3,957.4	1,591.4	2,366.0
2017	233	217	255	241	246	250	248	430	413	434	333.2	462.4	343.5	5.8	4,111.9	1,694.8	2,417.1
2018	263.6	232.4	229	272	251	254	279	403	430.2	416	440	323	319	7.2	4,119.4	1,786.8	2,332.6
2019	263	280	256.4	264	294	279	296	495	470	475	468.6	453.2	268.8	11.8	4,574.8	1,941.2	2,633.6
2020	298	273	311	264	287	321	322	533.2	568.6	518.6	554.6	526	364	9.4	5,150.0	2,082.4	3,067.6

## Number of Schools

Ten years ago in 2010, 153 independent schools catered for Indigenous students. These schools represented 86% of independent schools at that time. Five years later, in 2015, this proportion had increased to 95% with 183 independent schools catering for Indigenous students. Since that time the proportion of independent schools enrolling Indigenous students has fluctuated from 93% to 95%. In 2020, 94% of independent schools enrolled Indigenous students (209 of 222 schools) (refer Figure 1 and Figure 2).

**Figure 2: Indigenous Student Enrolments as a Proportion of Independent School Enrolments, 2010-20**



### Proportion of Independent School Students

Over time Indigenous enrolments as a proportion of enrolments at independent schools have trended upwards, following a period of relative stability from 2016 to 2018. In 2010 Indigenous enrolments represented 2.9% of enrolments (refer Figure 2). This proportion was in the order of 3.2% five years later, in 2015. In another five years in 2020, Indigenous enrolments represented 4.0% of all FTE enrolments in Queensland independent schools, the highest proportion evidenced in the ten-year timeframe from 2010 to 2020.

The increase in the proportion of enrolments represented by Indigenous students reflects Indigenous student enrolments increasing at a higher rate than the rate evidenced by enrolments of all students attending independent schools. From 2010 to 2020 Indigenous student enrolments increased by 63%, compared to a 21% increase in all enrolments in independent schools during this period.

### Apparent Progression

Additional Indigenous students have entered independent schools in most year levels in recent years (refer Table 2). In the most recent period, from 2019 to 2020, there was a net gain of 580 Indigenous students into Year 1 to Year 10. This reflects the number of Indigenous students enrolled in Year 1 to Year 10 in 2020 being 580 more than the number of Indigenous students in Prep to Year 9 in 2019 (who became the Year 1 to Year 10 cohort in 2020). This net gain was more than double the net gain of 240 Indigenous students into Year 1 to Year 10 from 2017 to 2018, but only 32 fewer than the 2018 to 2019 period.

**Table 2: Indigenous Student Apparent Progression, 2015-20**

	NUMBER										NET GAIN (Y 1-10)	NUMBER		RATE	
	P-Y1	Y1-2	Y2-3	Y3-4	Y4-5	Y5-6	Y6-7	Y7-8	Y8-9	Y9-10		Y10-11	Y11-12	Y10-11	Y11-12
<b>2015-16</b>	2	4	3	5	15	23	<b>177</b>	57	60	47	<b>393</b>	87	-80	124%	81%
<b>2016-17</b>	-10	20	27	22	34	11	<b>194</b>	11	0	16	<b>325</b>	47	-113	111%	75%
<b>2017-18</b>	-1	12	17	10	8	29	<b>155</b>	0	3	6	<b>240</b>	-10	-143	97%	69%
<b>2018-19</b>	16	24	35	22	28	42	<b>216</b>	67	45	53	<b>548</b>	13	-54	103%	83%
<b>2019-20</b>	10	31	8	23	27	43	<b>237</b>	74	49	79	<b>580</b>	57	-89	112%	80%

From 2019 to 2020 an increase in the number of students entering schools was evident across all year levels with the exception of Year 12 when there were 89 fewer students in Year 12 in 2020 than were in Year 11 in 2019. This represented an 80% apparent progression rate, slightly lower than the 83% progression rate in the previous period from 2018 to 2019 and compares to a low of only 69% retention from 2017 to 2018.

In the 2019 to 2020 period progression of Indigenous students was at the highest levels in the five-year timeframe for Y1-2, Y3-4, Y5-6, Y7-8 and Y9-10 (refer Table 2 above).

In 2020 the net gain of students into Year 7, the first year of secondary, was in the order of 237 students, the highest net gain in the five-year timeframe.

### Size of Indigenous Student Enrolments in Schools

Of those 209 schools that had Indigenous students enrolled in 2020, more than half of the schools (125 schools) had less than 20 Indigenous FTE enrolments. Eighty-four schools enrolled less than 10 Indigenous students and forty-one schools enrolled 10-<20 Indigenous students (refer Table 1).

The 84 schools with enrolments of less than ten Indigenous students enrolled only 7.9% of Indigenous students attending independent schools, while the 41 schools catering for 10 to less than 20 Indigenous students catered for a further 11.4% of Indigenous student enrolments.

**Table 3: Size of Indigenous Enrolments at Independent Schools, 2020**

Number of Indigenous Enrolments in Schools	Schools Enrolling Indigenous Students		Indigenous Enrolments (FTE)	
	Number	%	Number	%
None	13	5.9%		
1-<5 Students	42	18.9%	115.0	2.2%
5-<10 Students	42	18.9%	292.4	5.7%
10-<20 Students	41	18.5%	586.0	11.4%
20-<30 Students	31	14.0%	731.0	14.2%
30-<50 Students	29	13.1%	1,106.6	21.5%
50-<100 Students	20	9.0%	1,382.0	26.8%
100-<200 Students	2	0.9%	361.0	7.0%
At least 200 Students	2	0.9%	576.0	11.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>5,150.0</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Four schools enrolled at least 100 Indigenous students. These four schools catered for 18.2% of Indigenous FTE enrolments. Another 20 schools enrolled at least 50 Indigenous FTE enrolments, but less than 100 students. These 20 schools accounted for 26.8% of FTE Indigenous enrolments.

### Indigenous Enrolments as a Proportion of School Enrolments

An alternative perspective is to consider the proportion of Indigenous student enrolments of total enrolments at each school that gains Indigenous enrolments. This calculation indicated that of the 209 schools catering for Indigenous students, there were thirteen (13) schools where Indigenous students represented at least half of all students attending the school (refer Table 4). These 13 schools catered for 27.6% of FTE Indigenous enrolments at independent schools.

Two (2) of these 13 schools catered for only Indigenous students, while Indigenous students represented at least 75% of enrolments at another seven (7) schools. Together these nine (9) schools catered for 21.9% of Indigenous FTE enrolments at independent schools.

Over one-third of Indigenous FTE students (34.8%) were enrolled in schools where Indigenous students represented less than 5% of the school's total enrolment.

**Table 4: Schools and Indigenous Students Enrolments by Proportion of Indigenous Enrolments at Schools, 2020**

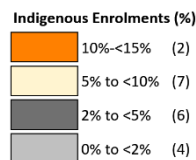
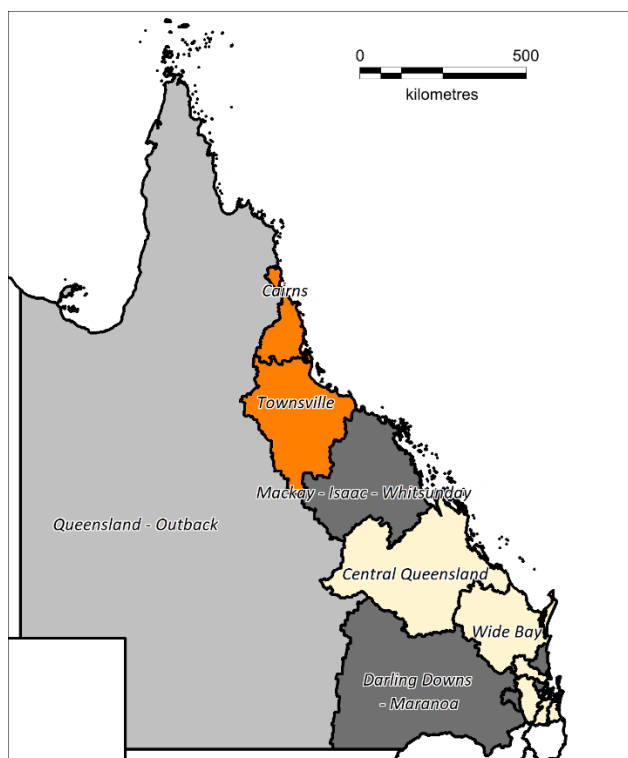
Schools Enrolling	Indigenous Enrolments
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Indigenous Enrolments as a Proportion of All Enrolments at Schools	Indigenous Students		(FTE)	
	Number	%	Number	%
No Indigenous Students	13	5.9%		
<1%	34	15.3%	172.0	3.3%
1-<2.5%	46	20.7%	785.0	15.2%
2.5%<-5%	45	20.3%	841.0	16.3%
5%<-10%	37	16.7%	979.4	19.0%
10-<25%	27	12.2%	700.0	13.6%
25-<50%	7	3.2%	250.0	4.9%
50-<75%	4	1.8%	296.0	5.7%
75-≤100%	9	4.1%	1,126.6	21.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>5,150.0</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

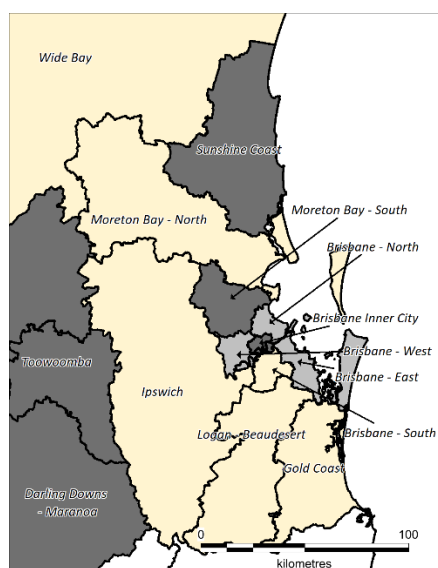
## Distribution of Indigenous Enrolments

Schools from across Queensland enrol Indigenous students, with largest proportions of students enrolled in schools located within the Cairns and Townsville regional areas (refer Map 1 and Map 2 below).

**Map 1: Indigenous Students by SA4 (%)**



**Map 2: Indigenous Students by SA4, South-east Queensland (%)**



**Table 5: Distribution of Indigenous Students Enrolments by SA4, 2020**

Together, schools located within Townsville and Cairns SA4s<sup>1</sup> account for over one-quarter (27%) of Indigenous student enrolments, each accounting for similar proportions of enrolments (13.7% and 13.3% of Indigenous student enrolments, respectively) (refer Table 5). The next highest enrolments are found in two SA4s located in South – east Queensland: Ipswich SA4, where 9.7% of Indigenous student enrolments attended schools and Brisbane – South (7.9% of Indigenous enrolments). SA4s of Central Queensland and Gold Coast, which is also within SEQ, accounted for the next highest proportions of Indigenous students (7.7% and 7.2%, respectively).

In total, nearly half (47.5%) of Indigenous student enrolments reside within SA4s that approximate the area of South-east Queensland (i.e 52.5% of Indigenous students are enrolled outside SEQ).

It is also of interest to note that independent schools located within one of the five Brisbane SA4 regional areas accounted for a similar proportion of Indigenous enrolments as both Cairns and Townsville SA4s (13.4%).

SA4 Name	Number	Percent
Brisbane - East	73.0	1.4%
Brisbane - North	41.6	0.8%
Brisbane - South	407.2	7.9%
Brisbane - West	58.0	1.1%
Brisbane Inner City	113.0	2.2%
Gold Coast	371.0	7.2%
Ipswich	500.0	9.7%
Logan - Beaudesert	274.0	5.3%
Moreton Bay - North	270.0	5.2%
Moreton Bay - South	131.0	2.5%
Sunshine Coast	206.0	4.0%
<b>SEQ TOTAL</b>	<b>2,444.8</b>	<b>47.5%</b>
Cairns	686.6	13.3%
Central Queensland	396.0	7.7%
Darling Downs - Maranoa	154.0	3.0%
Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday	157.0	3.0%
Queensland - Outback	82.0	1.6%
Toowoomba	178.0	3.5%
Townsville	708.0	13.7%
Wide Bay	343.6	6.7%
<b>TOTAL QLD</b>	<b>5,150.0</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<sup>1</sup> SA4s are geographical areas used by ABS to report a variety of regional data.