



What is the Coalition promising for education?

The Australian Government says it is delivering record funding for government, independent and Catholic schools. The Coalition's policies, processes and funding arrangements for school education are set out on the Department of Education's website under *Quality School Package* (www.education.gov.au/quality-schools).

In summary:

Preschool education

The Coalition will commit an additional \$440 million to extend the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education in 2019, in addition to \$428 million for preschool in 2018, to support states and territories in maintaining universal access to a quality preschool education in the year before school. It will provide funding certainty for preschools and long day care centres as the government implements school and child care reforms this year.

School chaplaincy program

The Coalition will provide \$247 million to support the chaplaincy program through to 2022, with around 3,000 schools taking advantage of the program to provide pastoral care services to students and support the wellbeing of the school community.

School education

'The Government will deliver a record \$307.7 billion in total school recurrent funding from 2018 to 2029. Recurrent funding for schools will grow from a record \$17.5 billion in 2017 to \$31.4 billion in 2029.'

'At the national level, funding per student for all sectors will continue to increase in real terms.'

'While maintaining the historic role of the Australian Government as the majority funder of non-government schools, the new needs-based funding model will see the Commonwealth continue to increase its share of funding for government schools.'

To 2029:

- funding for government schools will grow by an average of 98.0 per cent, with total Commonwealth recurrent funding for government schools of \$127.9 billion from 2018 to 2029 (from a 2017 base)
- funding for non-government schools will grow by an average of 67.5 per cent, with total Commonwealth recurrent funding for non-government schools of \$179.8 billion from 2018 to 2029 (from a 2017 base).'

Updating the SRS (School Resourcing Standard)



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The SRS will grow to reflect real changes in wages and inflation costs.

Increased accountability

Accountability and transparency are to be strengthened via oversight by the National Schools Resourcing Board. The board has recommended the adoption of a new direct income measure of non-government school capacity to contribute, which will apply from 2020

The department notes that this new more targeted measure, in combination with the broader *Quality Schools* package is anticipated to deliver record funding levels.

National Average

	Avg. annual per student increase 2018-2029 (from 2017 base)	2018 per student funding (\$)	2029 per student funding (\$)	2018-2029 per student increases (from 2017 base) (\$)	Avg. 2018 CW share of needs- based funding
Government	4.7%	\$2,907	\$4,745	\$2,022	17.5%
Catholic	3.8%	\$9,269	\$13,851	\$4,996	78.5%
Independent	3.8%	\$7,736	\$11,430	\$4,094	74.7%

Source: www.education.gov.au/quality-schools-package-factsheet

Budget announcements 2019-20

In his budget media release dated 2 April, Education Minister, Dan Tehan, confirmed record school education funding and an additional \$453.1 million to guarantee universal access to preschool education until the end of 2020.

He said, ‘In this year's Budget, a record \$21.4 billion will be provided for state schools, Catholic schools and Independent schools for the 2020 school year - an increase in funding of \$8.5 billion since 2013.

‘The 2019-20 Budget provides a record \$8.6 billion for child care, including \$8.3 billion for the Child Care Subsidy and \$17. 7 billion for the university sector.

‘The Government will establish a Local School Community Fund, which will provide \$200,000 to each federal electorate to support priority projects in local schools that benefit students and their communities.

‘The Government will continue to fund universal access to 15 hours of preschool in the year before school by providing \$453.1 million to guarantee funding through to the end of the



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2020 school year and to undertake the related National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection.’

He went on to list early childhood funding and other budget initiatives supporting schools and students.

For early learning and child care

- ‘\$449.5 million over two years from 2019-20 to extend the National partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education, ensuring every child can participate in 600 hours of quality preschool in the year before school.
- \$4.9 million over two years from 2019-20 to improve the preschool data that is available nationally and to fund The Smith Family to work with state and territory governments and disadvantaged communities on strategies to improve preschool participation rates.
- \$4.0 million in 2019-20 for enhancements to the new Child Care Subsidy System (CCSS) and the Inclusion Support Portal.’

For schools

‘\$30.2 million in 2019-20 to establish the Local School Community Fund to support priority projects in local schools that benefit students and their communities.

\$9.5 million over four years from 2019-20 to establish new online courses and resources for the teaching of mathematics and phonics.

\$4.0 million in 2018-19 to assist schools impacted by the recent flooding in North Queensland.

\$5.0 million over three years from 2019-20 for Life Education Australia to develop a new range of free training resources to help teachers support the social and emotional needs of students.

\$5.7 million over five years from 2018-19 to fund the delivery of arts programs through Music Australia, The Song Room, a mobile music education program and Bell Shakespeare.

\$2.0 million over two years from 2019-20 to increase the public's understanding of Australia's democracy and political system by supporting the next stage of development of the Australian Constitution Centre at the High Court of Australia in Canberra.’

Source: ministers.education.gov.au/tehan/record-funding-education

Indigenous students

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Nigel Scullion, affirmed the Coalition Government’s commitment to supporting Indigenous students to attend school and get the education that creates the foundation for a better life.

In his budget media release he said, ‘The Budget includes the \$200 million Indigenous Youth Education Package announced during Closing the Gap week to fund additional scholarship placements and give more Indigenous students the support and mentoring they need. This



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funding will drive school attendance and improve education outcomes which we know are so critical to a better future.’

Source: www.nigelscullion.com/media-hub/2019-20-indigenous-portfolio-budget/au/quality-schools-package-factsheet