

Education

In 2026–27, the Australian Government will provide funding of \$35.2 billion to support state education services, including \$34.4 billion in Better and Fairer Schools funding and \$777.3 million through National Partnership payments, as detailed in Table 2.4.

Table 2.4: Payments to support state education services^(a)

\$million	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Better and Fairer Schools funding(b)	32,979.3	34,393.8	35,873.5	37,471.2	39,276.9
National Partnership payments					
Building Early Education Fund	138.5	97.9	52.8	28.0	0.4
Consent and respectful relationships education	20.4	8.3	8.3	-	-
Disadvantaged independent school students	31.4	15.7	-	-	-
Expansion of the Joint Compliance and Monitoring Program	5.0	5.8	5.8	5.8	-
Funding to establish a Hindu School in Australia	3.4	4.0	1.5	-	-
Mid-Year Reception in South Australian Non-Government Schools	13.3	8.7	-	-	-
National Student Wellbeing Program	61.4	61.4	61.4	61.4	61.4
Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment – Early Learning and Access to Education(b)	24.2	20.8	18.6	19.1	19.6
Operational Support for Manjali School	1.0	-	-	-	-
Preschool Reform Agreement	532.4	553.3	387.6	-	-
Schools Pathways Program	2.0	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5
Workload Reduction Fund	7.0	-	-	-	-
Total National Partnership payments	840.0	777.3	689.9	652.1	610.2
Total	33,819.4	35,171.1	36,563.4	38,123.3	39,887.2
<i>Memorandum item – payments for non-government schools included in payments above</i>					
Better and Fairer Schools funding(b)	20,537.1	21,421.8	22,411.3	23,448.5	24,543.6
Building Early Education Fund	3.9	1.4	-	-	-
Consent and respectful relationships education	6.2	2.5	2.5	-	-
Disadvantaged independent school students	31.4	15.7	-	-	-
Funding to establish a Hindu School in Australia	3.4	4.0	1.5	-	-
Mid-Year Reception in South Australian Non-Government Schools	13.3	8.7	-	-	-
Operational Support for Manjali School	1.0	-	-	-	-
Total	20,596.2	21,454.1	22,415.3	23,448.5	24,543.6

a) Total figures include items not for publication.

b) Includes funding for non-government representative bodies.

Better and Fairer Schools funding

The Australian Government’s Better and Fairer Schools policy aims to improve the educational outcomes of Australian students.

In 2026–27, the Australian Government will provide \$34.4 billion in Better and Fairer Schools funding to government and non-government schools in all states. This includes recurrent funding, capital funding, Choice and Affordability Fund funding and other prescribed purpose funding.

Better and Fairer Schools funding^(a)

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26									
Government schools(b)	3,536.0	3,048.4	2,770.9	1,491.6	804.7	289.5	198.4	302.9	12,442.3
Non-government schools(c)(d)	6,121.1	5,270.5	4,443.5	2,085.6	1,601.8	457.1	302.1	255.4	20,537.1
Total	9,657.0	8,318.9	7,214.3	3,577.2	2,406.5	746.6	500.5	558.3	32,979.3
2026-27									
Government schools(b)	3,663.2	3,155.4	2,877.1	1,579.6	831.0	304.3	209.4	352.1	12,972.0
Non-government schools(c)(d)	6,388.0	5,489.6	4,635.6	2,163.8	1,684.4	478.3	318.2	263.9	21,421.8
Total	10,051.2	8,645.0	7,512.6	3,743.4	2,515.4	782.5	527.6	616.0	34,393.8
2027-28									
Government schools(b)	3,798.5	3,278.3	2,974.0	1,633.2	849.0	309.3	215.3	404.5	13,462.2
Non-government schools(c)(d)	6,666.5	5,747.1	4,853.0	2,265.7	1,774.4	498.3	332.8	273.4	22,411.3
Total	10,465.0	9,025.4	7,827.1	3,898.9	2,623.5	807.6	548.1	677.9	35,873.5
2028-29									
Government schools(b)	3,980.9	3,398.1	3,071.4	1,687.2	887.4	316.1	221.1	460.5	14,022.6
Non-government schools(c)(d)	6,958.9	6,016.8	5,083.5	2,374.9	1,864.4	520.2	346.7	282.9	23,448.5
Total	10,939.8	9,414.9	8,155.0	4,062.1	2,751.8	836.3	567.8	743.5	37,471.2
2029-30									
Government schools(b)	4,260.9	3,520.9	3,195.6	1,749.5	954.4	327.8	228.0	496.3	14,733.3
Non-government schools(c)(d)	7,269.3	6,297.5	5,332.4	2,489.9	1,957.1	542.9	362.7	291.9	24,543.6
Total	11,530.2	9,818.4	8,528.0	4,239.4	2,911.5	870.7	590.7	788.2	39,276.9

- a) This table does not include additional funding that may result from ongoing negotiations with Victoria on the *Better and Fairer Schools Agreement – Full and Fair Funding 2025–2034* supporting bilateral agreement.
- b) Includes Literacy Support for Tasmanian Students and funding for the Northern Territory to accelerate evidence-based reforms to improve outcomes for vulnerable students.
- c) Includes capital funding.
- d) Includes funding for Choice and Affordability Fund.

The Australian Government uses a needs-based model for school funding, which delivers a consistent national approach for all schools in all states.

National Partnership payments for education

In addition to Better and Fairer Schools funding, the Australian Government is providing funding for state education services through National Partnership payments.

Building Early Education Fund^(a)

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	3.9	42.3	25.0	-	7.7	9.2	5.0	-	138.5
2026-27	1.4	10.5	-	2.5	0.7	2.0	4.0	-	97.9
2027-28	-	8.8	15.0	6.5	4.2	9.7	1.0	-	52.8
2028-29	-	1.6	10.0	-	1.8	4.6	-	-	28.0
2029-30	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	0.4
Total	5.3	63.2	50.0	9.0	14.8	25.5	10.0	-	317.7

a) Totals include funding yet to be allocated.

The Australian Government's Building Early Education Fund will build and expand early childhood education and care centres in areas of need, including in the outer suburbs and regional Australia. The Building Early Education Fund includes capital funding to be provided to the states to build and expand services on, or near, school sites.

Consent and respectful relationships education

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	6.7	4.8	3.8	2.4	1.5	0.5	0.3	0.4	20.4
2026-27	2.7	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.2	8.3
2027-28	2.7	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.2	8.3
2028-29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2029-30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	12.1	8.7	6.8	4.3	2.7	1.0	0.5	0.7	36.9

The Australian Government is providing funding to the government and non-government education sectors to support consent and respectful relationships education in their schools.

Disadvantaged independent school students

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	10.0	5.1	9.8	3.8	1.4	0.3	0.2	0.9	31.4
2026-27	5.0	2.5	4.9	1.9	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.5	15.7
2027-28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2028-29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2029-30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	15.0	7.6	14.7	5.7	2.1	0.4	0.2	1.4	47.1

The Australian Government is providing funding to support disadvantaged independent schools as they transition to new funding arrangements.

Expansion of the Joint Compliance and Monitoring Program

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6	5.0
2026-27	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	5.8
2027-28	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	5.8
2028-29	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	5.8
2029-30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3.4	3.4	2.7	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.7	22.3

The Australian Government is providing increased funding to expand the Joint Compliance and Monitoring Program, a collaborative initiative between the Commonwealth and all state and territory regulatory authorities and independent state-based regulators to strengthen regulatory oversight and streamline compliance processes.

Funding to establish a Hindu School in Australia

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	3.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.4
2026-27	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.0
2027-28	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.5
2028-29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2029-30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	8.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.9

The Australian Government is providing \$8.9 million to support the establishment and construction of Australia’s first Hindu school.

Mid-Year Reception in South Australian Non-Government Schools

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	-	-	-	-	13.3	-	-	-	13.3
2026-27	-	-	-	-	8.7	-	-	-	8.7
2027-28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2028-29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2029-30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	22.0	-	-	-	22.0

The Australian Government is providing temporary funding of \$22.0 million over 2025 and 2026 for non-government schools in South Australia that provide an 18-month Reception program.

National Student Wellbeing Program^(a)

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	11.3	12.8	18.4	7.7	7.6	2.2	1.0	0.5	61.4
2026-27	11.3	12.8	18.4	7.7	7.6	2.2	1.0	0.5	61.4
2027-28	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	61.4
2028-29	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	61.4
2029-30	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	61.4
Total	22.5	25.6	36.7	15.5	15.2	4.4	2.0	1.0	307.2

a) State allocations have not yet been determined.

The Australian Government is providing funding to support the wellbeing of students through the provision of pastoral care services in participating schools.

Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment – Early Learning and Access to Education^(a)

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24.2	24.2
2026-27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20.8	20.8
2027-28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18.6	18.6
2028-29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19.1	19.1
2029-30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19.6	19.6
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	102.3	102.3

a) Includes funding for non-government representative bodies.

The Australian Government is providing funding to deliver remote early learning, improve access for remote students to participate in education, and First Nations education workforce development.

Operational Support for Manjali School

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	1.0
2026-27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2027-28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2028-29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2029-30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	1.0

The Australian Government is providing additional funding to support the operation of the Manjali Studio School, a new secondary boarding school in the Kimberley region of Western Australia for First Nations students, which opened in 2025.

Preschool Reform Agreement^(a)

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	147.5	129.4	98.5	68.6	30.4	9.8	9.7	4.9	532.4
2026-27	161.3	131.2	109.7	57.1	33.2	9.8	9.7	5.5	553.3
2027-28	110.1	91.8	75.9	39.6	23.1	6.9	6.8	3.8	387.6
2028-29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2029-30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	419.0	352.4	284.1	165.3	86.7	26.6	26.1	14.2	1,473.4

a) Totals include funding yet to be allocated.

The Australian Government is providing funding to support continued universal access to 600 hours per year of preschool for children in the year before they start school. The Preschool Reform Agreement (2022–2027) aims to improve preschool participation and outcomes, including improved enrolment and attendance. Preschool funding is an ongoing commitment, with total funding amounts from 2028 onwards to be published once future funding arrangements are agreed.

Schools Pathways Program^(a)

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	-	-	-	1.1	0.9	-	-	-	2.0
2026-27	-	-	-	~	~	-	-	-	1.4
2027-28	-	-	-	~	~	-	-	-	1.4
2028-29	-	-	-	~	~	-	-	-	1.4
2029-30	-	-	-	~	~	-	-	-	1.5
Total	-	-	-	1.1	0.9	-	-	-	7.7

a) State allocations have not yet been determined.

The Australian Government is providing funding to assist in promoting defence industry as a potential career path for young people and to encourage student participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects relevant to defence industry.

A new measure associated with this item is listed in Table 1.4 and described in more detail in Budget Paper No. 2, *Budget Measures 2026–27*.

Workload Reduction Fund

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2025-26	1.0	1.0	-	-	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	7.0
2026-27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2027-28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2028-29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2029-30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1.0	1.0	-	-	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	7.0

The Australian Government is providing funding to states to enable them to pilot new approaches to reduce teacher workloads and maximise the value of teachers' time.