

Education

In 2025–26, the Australian Government will provide funding of \$32.8 billion to support state education services, including \$32.2 billion in Better and Fairer Schools funding and \$647.9 million through National Partnership payments, as detailed in Table 2.4.

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

\$million	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Better and Fairer Schools funding(b)	31,037.3	32,178.4	33,594.9	35,004.5	36,508.8
National Partnership payments					
Consent and respectful relationships education	22.0	20.4	8.3	8.3	-
Disadvantaged independent school students	47.1	31.4	15.7	-	-
National Student Wellbeing Program	61.4	61.4	61.4	61.4	61.4
Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment – Children and schooling implementation plan(b)	33.9	24.2	20.8	18.6	19.1
On-Country Learning	10.0	-	-	-	-
Operational Support for Manjali School	2.7	1.0	-	-	-
Preschool Reform Agreement	490.6	346.3	-	-	-
Schools Pathways Program	1.7	1.7	-	-	-
Workload Reduction Fund	12.7	7.0	-	-	-
Total National Partnership payments	682.1	647.9	660.0	669.3	690.0
Total	31,719.4	32,826.3	34,254.9	35,673.8	37,198.8
<i>Memorandum item – payments for non-government schools included in payments above</i>					
Better and Fairer Schools funding(b)	19,323.0	19,943.6	20,792.1	21,647.6	22,509.2
Consent and respectful relationships education	7.4	6.2	2.5	2.5	-
Disadvantaged independent school students	47.1	31.4	15.7	-	-
Operational Support for Manjali School	2.7	1.0	-	-	-
Total	19,380.1	19,982.2	20,810.3	21,650.1	22,509.2

a) Total figures include items not for publication.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 2025–26, the Australian Government will provide \$32.2 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
2024-25									
Government schools(b)	3,439.7	2,854.8	2,608.3	1,338.0	778.4	266.5	174.9	253.8	11,714.3
Non-government schools(c)(d)(e)	5,820.5	4,940.5	4,162.1	1,935.4	1,490.9	432.9	287.0	253.6	19,323.0
Total	9,260.2	7,795.3	6,770.4	3,273.4	2,269.3	699.4	461.9	507.3	31,037.3
2025-26									
Government schools(b)	3,555.4	2,960.8	2,673.1	1,453.9	805.4	292.5	192.9	300.7	12,234.7
Non-government schools(c)(d)(e)	6,039.4	5,081.4	4,290.5	1,976.4	1,553.1	449.3	293.1	260.5	19,943.6
Total	9,594.8	8,042.2	6,963.6	3,430.3	2,358.5	741.8	486.0	561.2	32,178.4
2026-27									
Government schools(b)	3,709.9	3,081.4	2,765.0	1,543.7	835.3	311.9	205.4	350.4	12,802.8
Non-government schools(c)(d)(e)	6,301.3	5,310.6	4,466.8	2,043.6	1,627.2	467.7	303.7	271.3	20,792.1
Total	10,011.1	8,391.9	7,231.7	3,587.3	2,462.5	779.6	509.1	621.6	33,594.9
2027-28									
Government schools(b)	3,891.5	3,207.6	2,864.3	1,595.7	858.1	322.0	212.9	404.8	13,356.9
Non-government schools(c)(d)(e)	6,564.9	5,549.0	4,641.3	2,108.8	1,700.7	485.6	314.5	282.8	21,647.6
Total	10,456.4	8,756.6	7,505.6	3,704.6	2,558.9	807.6	527.4	687.6	35,004.5
2028-29									
Government schools(b)	4,126.6	3,336.2	2,966.7	1,649.6	901.8	333.5	221.2	464.0	13,999.6
Non-government schools(c)(d)(e)	6,828.6	5,790.9	4,818.1	2,172.9	1,773.8	504.6	325.0	295.3	22,509.2
Total	10,955.2	9,127.1	7,784.8	3,822.6	2,675.7	838.0	546.2	759.3	36,508.8

- a) This table does not include additional funding that may result from ongoing negotiations with states on the *Better and Fairer Schools Agreement – Full and Fair Funding 2025–2034* and its supporting bilateral agreements.
- 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 prescribed circumstances funding.
- e) 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.

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 2025–26*.

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.

Consent and respectful relationships education

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2024-25	6.7	5.9	3.8	2.4	1.5	1.1	0.3	0.4	22.0
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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	18.8	14.6	10.6	6.6	4.3	2.1	0.8	1.1	58.8

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
2024-25	15.0	7.6	14.7	5.7	2.1	0.4	0.2	1.4	47.1
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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	29.9	15.2	29.5	11.3	4.2	0.9	0.5	2.7	94.2

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

National Student Wellbeing Program^(a)

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2024-25	11.3	12.8	18.4	7.7	7.6	2.2	1.0	0.5	61.4
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
Total	33.8	38.4	55.1	23.2	22.8	6.7	2.9	1.5	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 – Children and schooling implementation plan^(a)

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2024-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33.9	33.9
2025-26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24.2	24.2
2026-27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20.8	20.8
2027-28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18.6	18.6
2028-29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19.1	19.1
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	116.7	116.7

a) Includes funding for non-government representative bodies.

The Australian Government is providing funding to improve school readiness; pathways for secondary students to access opportunities for employment, training and further education; student attendance; educational attainment; First Nations workforce development, including increasing the number of local First Nations employees; and teacher housing in remote and very remote schools.

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 2025–26*.

On-Country Learning

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2024-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10.0	10.0
2025-26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2026-27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2027-28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2028-29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10.0	10.0

The Australian Government is providing additional funding to schools in Central Australia to support improved student enrolment, engagement, wellbeing and learning outcomes through community driven responses.

Operational Support for Manjali School

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2024-25	-	-	-	2.7	-	-	-	-	2.7
2025-26	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	1.0
2026-27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2027-28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2028-29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	3.7	-	-	-	-	3.7

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
2024-25	140.8	128.5	90.9	49.8	28.5	9.8	9.7	4.7	490.6
2025-26	98.7	90.0	65.4	36.0	20.4	6.9	6.8	3.3	346.3
2026-27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2027-28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2028-29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	239.5	218.5	156.3	85.8	48.9	16.7	16.4	7.9	836.9

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 (2022–2025) aims to improve preschool participation and outcomes, including improved enrolment and attendance. Preschool funding is an ongoing commitment, with total funding amounts from 2026 onwards to be published once future funding arrangements are agreed.

Schools Pathways Program

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2024-25	-	-	-	0.9	0.9	-	-	-	1.7
2025-26	-	-	-	0.9	0.9	-	-	-	1.7
2026-27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2027-28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2028-29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	1.7	1.7	-	-	-	3.4

The Australian Government is providing funding to assist in promoting the defence industry as a potential career path for young people and to encourage student participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics subjects relevant to the defence industry.

Workload Reduction Fund

\$million	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
2024-25	3.0	3.0	-	1.7	3.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	12.7
2025-26	1.0	1.0	-	-	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	7.0
2026-27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2027-28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2028-29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4.0	4.0	-	1.7	4.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	19.7

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