



### SCHOOL EDUCATION (CHAPTER 3)

- The principal focus of this chapter is on government funded primary and secondary school education. Some performance indicators are reported for government schools, non-government schools and school education as a whole.
- There were 3.3 million full time equivalent school students in 2001. Government schools educated 72.4 per cent of primary students and 64.0 per cent of secondary students (p. 3.7). Commonwealth, State and Territory governments spent \$21.9 billion on school education in 2000-01, of which \$17.3 billion (78.6 per cent) was spent on government schools (p 3.4).

#### Selection of results

Reading literacy of 15 year olds — proportion of students who achieved at or above the OECD mean, 2000 (p. 3.23)

Government recurrent expenditure per full time equivalent student, government schools, 2000-01 (p 3.40)

	
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See over for data and footnotes.

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- Data for the reading literacy of 15 year olds was sourced from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), that involved survey testing across 32 countries. In this survey, Australian students performed at a high level relative to most other countries. The Education preface of the Report includes further information on Australia's performance relative to other countries (p. B.14).
- Other indicators include learning outcomes for reading and numeracy for years 3 and 5 (pp. 3.19–26), mathematical and scientific literacy of 15 year olds (pp. 3.27–28), school participation rates (pp. 3.28–29), apparent retention rates (pp. 3.30–30), year 12 completion rates (pp. 3.33–3.36) and the ratio of students to staff (pp. 3.43–45).

[MORE]

## Progress since 2002 Report

- Reporting of nationally comparable learning outcomes data has been expanded to include numeracy for years 3 and 5, and reading, mathematical and scientific literacy for 15 year olds. All of the nationally comparable learning outcomes data are for the year 2000. It is expected that more timely reporting will be achieved for future reports.

### Data for charts on previous page

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
<i>Reading literacy of 15 year olds — proportion of students who achieved at or above the OECD mean, 2000 (per cent)<sup>a, b</sup></i>									
At or above OECD mean	66.5	55.2	59.6	63.4	64.8	60.2	71.4	51.0	61.8
Confidence interval	± 5.3	± 5.8	± 7.2	± 6.5	± 5.1	± 8.0	± 4.7	± 7.1	± 2.8

a The Program for International Student Assessment assessed students reading literacy in three subcategories: retrieving information, interpreting texts, and reflecting on and evaluating texts. This chapter reports on combined results across these subcategories. b 95 per cent confidence intervals are shown on the bars in the chart.

Source: Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) (unpublished); table 3A.24.

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
<i>Total government expenditure per full time equivalent school student in government schools, 2000-01 (dollars)<sup>a, b, c</sup></i>									
In-school primary	5 976	5 862	6 051	6 162	6 893	6 811	6 359	9 975	6 148
In-school secondary	8 211	7 683	7 703	8 499	8 828	7 986	8 901	13 667	8 120
Out of school	324	389	517	543	517	460	463	1 370	433

a See notes to tables 3A.6 and 3A.7 for definitions and data caveats. b Excludes capital charges for comparability reasons. c Includes payroll tax estimates for WA and the ACT for comparability reasons.

Source: Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (2002b); ABS (2002a); table 3A.7.

[END]

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**Please do not approach other parties for comment before Thursday 6 February 2003.**

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