

PROFILE 2023

Catholic School Parents

AUSTRALIA



CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS AUSTRALIA

Catholic School Parents Australia is recognised as the national body representing and advocating for the parents* and carers of 785,585 children and young people who attend the 1,755 Catholic schools across Australia. CSPA works in collaboration and consultation with the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) and is recognised by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference through the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education.

[*Parent includes natural, adopted or foster parents, guardians or caregivers of children and young people attending

INTRODUCTION

WHO MAKES UP CSPA?

Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA) was formed in late 2013 by State and Territory Catholic school parent bodies, these now consist of:

- Catholic School Parents Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn.
- Council of Catholic School Parents NSW.
- Catholic School Parents Queensland.
- Catholic School Parents South Australia.
- Tasmanian Catholic Schools Parents Council.
- Catholic School Parents Victoria.
- Catholic School Parents Western Australia.



Andrea Obeyesekere
Chair



Siobhan Allen
Deputy Chair

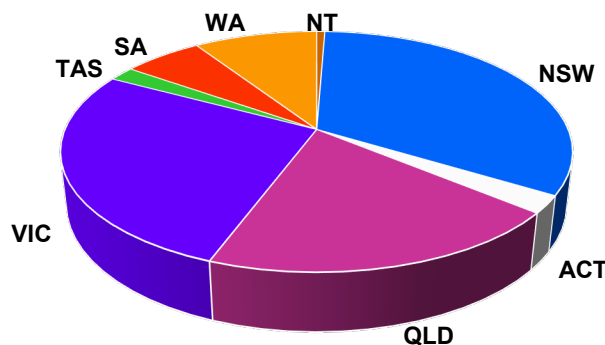


2022 ENROLMENTS IN AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

In 2022, one out of every five Australian school students were educated in a Catholic School. 38% of Australia's 1,759 Catholic Schools were in a regional or remote area and students with disability made up 20.6% of Catholic school students. The table below sets out Catholic school enrolments by state/territory.

AUS	NT	NSW	ACT	QLD	VIC	TAS	SA	WA
793,897 Students	4789	262,570	18,752	157,708	210,681	15,413	50,333	73,651
% of national Catholic school enrolment.	0.6%	33.1%	2.4%	19.9%	26.5%	1.9%	6.3%	9.3%

(NCEC, 2023)



WHAT DOES CSPA DO?

Catholic School Parents Australia:

- Advocates for families with children and young people in Australian Catholic schools.
- Canvasses the views of parents/carers for reporting to government and education authorities.
- Represents these families to education authorities such as the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) and the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and federal government forums.
- Supports and provides national leadership to the State and Territory Catholic parent bodies who work with Catholic schools.
- Consults and collaborates with the NCEC, the Australian Catholic Primary Principals Association (ACPPA) and Catholic Secondary Principals Australia (CaSPA) in all matters pertaining to parents as partners in Catholic education.
- Works with such agencies as the Australian government, the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) and various universities to support, explore and promote Parent Engagement as an influence on student learning and wellbeing.

Each member parent body plays an advocacy role for families through their Parents & Friends associations at the local Catholic school level.

CSPA Member State and ACT authorities also work in close liaison with their Catholic education authorities at a diocesan level and with their State/Territory Catholic Education Commissions.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

CSPA has become recognised as the national parent body which is investigating contemporary strategies around the implementation of parent engagement in schools.

The DESE funded CSPA Parent Engagement Tool Kit (PETK) was generated from CSPA's extensive research conducted with principals and parents. The PETK contains modules focussed on key Parent Engagement topics gleaned from the research and includes case studies of parents and school staff demonstrating ways to enhance engagement. In 2023, Parent Engagement professional development videos for parents and teachers will be added.

The PETK is available to all schools Australia wide through the *Gearing up for parent engagement* website, which is available at <https://www.parentengagementcspa.edu.au/>.



Parent Opinions*

Through their Members, CSPA is always keen to hear parent/carer views on the learning, health and wellbeing challenges faced by their children and young people. CSPA takes every opportunity to pass any of these family concerns on to government and education agencies.

The final report from the 2022 Parent Views Survey will be available from August 2023. A number of reports have been available since December 2022. Across 2023-2024 CSPA is investigating effective strategies of home-school communication. Reporting on this will commence from late 2023.

[*CSPA acknowledges funding from the Australian Government in support of this work].