

South Australia: A state analysis of the Cardus Education Survey Australia Project

Commissioned by Associated Christian Schools

Demographic Snapshot

In South Australia there are currently



715 schools
in total consisting of



510

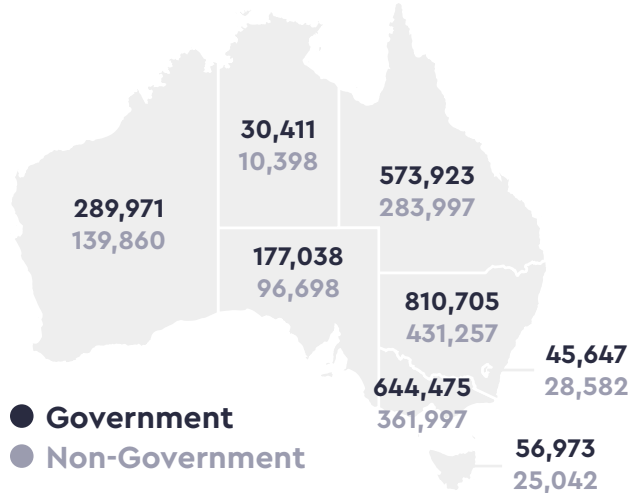
Government schools



205

non-Government schools

Student enrolments by state and territory and Government/Non-Government school affiliation, 2020



Millennial graduates from South Australia contribute to the common good through:

Formation

South Australian schools prepare graduates for university and career success.



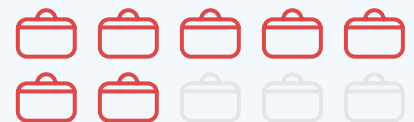
Two in three South Australian graduates (63%) felt prepared for university success (cf. 71% VIC, 67% NSW, 66% QLD, 64% WA).



Three in five South Australian graduates (59%) felt prepared for career success (cf. 60% VIC, 58% QLD, 58% NSW, 53% WA).

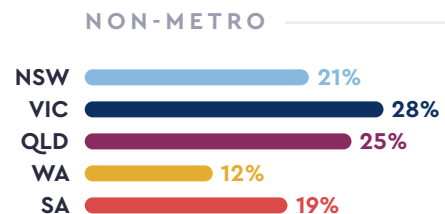
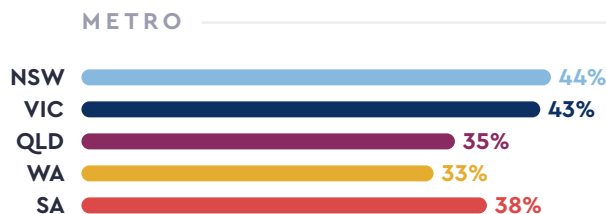
Work

Professional skills, employment and having a stable income are important both for individuals and communities to flourish. These are important in profiling a graduate who contributes to the common good.



Seven in ten graduates from South Australia are employed (72%)

Graduates with bachelor degrees across metro and non-metro regions



Belonging

Membership of associations, groups and causes promote a sense of belonging within communities, expand social networks, and encourage broader civic engagement.



30% of South Australian graduates are involved in a sport, leisure, or cultural group.



22% of South Australian graduates are involved in a business or professional group, having the third highest involvement across the nation.

Generosity

Giving of one's time and money is a civic value that enhances community, assuming individuals cannot flourish if their neighbours cannot.

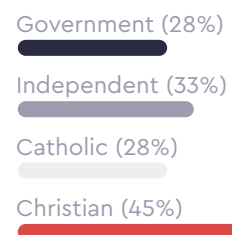
South Australian graduates' volunteer involvement compared to all other states



South Australian graduates' level of giving compared to all other states



South Australian graduates from Christian schools are more likely than graduates from other schools to volunteer:



Faith commitments and spiritual practices

Faith and belief not only provide a sense of purpose, and the associated benefits of good mental health and wellbeing, but also provide places of belonging and community connection.



One in seven South Australian graduates attend church at least monthly (14%), lowest of all graduates in the nation.



South Australian Christian school Graduates are the **most likely** to attend church at least monthly compared to graduates from other schools (38% cf. 17% Independent, 11% Government, 6% Catholic).

Building flourishing communities of the future

To increase the wellbeing and flourishing of Australian communities and graduates South Australian schools could focus on:



Promoting holistic profiles of South Australian graduates that measure what is of value across educational, vocational, civic and social measures.



Cultivating the importance of membership and involvement in a variety of civic associations and groups.

METHODOLOGY

In 2021 Associated Christian Schools (ACS) commissioned a project to explore a detailed state-by-state analysis and evaluation of the CES Australia project data sets. Data from the Cardus Education survey Australia project was collated from a nationally representative sample of 4,913 graduates, conducted in March and April 2020, who completed secondary school between 1998 and 2011. With 7% of the total sample from South Australia.

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2020.



Visualisation by McCrindle

Associated Christian Schools
Christian education for the common good