



% of primary school children in private schools, as at 2010. OECD 'Education At A Glance 2012.

The debate over private vs. public education is heated & enduring; particularly in terms of the funding awarded to each by the State and Federal Governments.

The recent Gonski review has added further fuel to the issue. So, how does Australia compare with the rest of the world in terms of how many children attend private schools?

According to the latest OECD data, Australia has a staggeringly high percentage of its children in private schools.

At the primary school level, Australia has the fourth largest percentage of its children in private schools.

- World-wide, an average of 90% of primary school children attend public schools.
- In Australia, only 69% of primary school children attend public schools.

A third of OECD countries do not even have government funded, private primary education.

The OECD average for children enrolled in public lower secondary schools is 86.1%

- In Australia, the rate is 65.5%

The OECD average for children enrolled in public upper secondary schools is 81.4%.

- In Australia, the rate is 68.3%.

At the upper secondary level, only 2 countries have more children in private schools, than Australia.

Between 2007 and 2010 the percentage of students in upper secondary private schools rose:

- From 18.2% to 18.6% worldwide
- From 22% to 31.7% in Australia

During the same period, Australia recorded drops in public school enrolments across all levels of school education.