



National Catholic Education Commission

Catholic School Enrolment Trends 2006

**Report from the
Australian Catholic Education Statistics
(ACES) Working Group**

February 2007

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Catholic School Enrolment Trends

2006

Background

Catholic School Enrolment Trends 2006 is the fifth report on enrolment trends and policy issues in Catholic schools from the ACES Working Group to the National Catholic Education Commission. As with previous reports, this report provides a snapshot of the enrolments in Australian Catholic schools in 2006, and provides changes in enrolments since 1985.

In July 2000, NCEC agreed to establish a Working Group to identify, collect and analyse a range of data from 1985 to 2000 relevant to Catholic school enrolments, in response to concerns expressed by members of the National Catholic Education Commission about the perceived changing pattern of enrolments of Catholic school-age children; in particular, that fewer students from Catholic families were now enrolling in Catholic schools, while Catholic schools are enrolling more and more non-Catholic students.

The Working Group was established to explore these issues on a national basis with a view to determining the current trends in enrolment patterns, and to identify any policy implications for Catholic educators and the Catholic community more generally. The Working Group was required to produce a report setting out the requested data in graphical/tabular form and provide analysis of issues and decisions underlying the varying trends in the data. From this basis, the Working Group produced *Catholic School Enrolment Trends, 1985-2010*, which examined enrolment trends for Catholic schools; as well as student-specific trends in Catholic schools relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) students, Students with a Disability (SWD), English as a Second Language (ESL) students, Full-Fee Paying Overseas Students (FFPOS) and non-Catholic students in Catholic schools. The Working Group further examined policy issues in the first report relating to Catholic schools and considered the policy questions: What schools do children of Catholic families attend?; Who attends Catholic schools in terms of religion?; Who attends Catholic schools in terms of family income?; and What schools do Catholic school-age children attend in terms of income?

Catholic School Enrolment Trends 2003 built on the 2001 report and examined trends from 2000 to 2003, in the context of the first report, for each of the trends and policy issues explored in the 2001 Report (other than for ESL which is no longer collected nationally). *Catholic School Enrolment Trends 2003* provided an update of the policy issues, incorporating new data from the 2001 ABS Census. In addition to the policy questions raised in the first report, the Working Group examined new issues in this report relating to single-parent families in Catholic schools, large families in Catholic schools and whether Indigenous students are under-represented in Catholic schools. With significant change to Commonwealth funding for non-government schools in February 2004, and subsequent national discussion, the Working Group also examined Catholic schools in relation to Socio-Economic Status (SES) Index scores.

Catholic School Enrolment Trends 2004 was the third national report to NCEC on enrolment trends from the NCEC Working Group, and was a departure from the first two reports, in that the report was limited to enrolment trends in Catholic schools, while policy issues – which were an integral aspect of the first two reports – are reported to NCEC in separate research papers to NCEC. *Catholic School Enrolment Trends 2005* provided an update from the 2004 report for enrolments and trends in Australian Catholic Schools, and included annual data for dioceses. From late 2006, all reports from the Working Group have been available from the NCEC website, at http://www.ncec.catholic.edu.au/ncec_stats.htm.

This year's report continues to place annual enrolments in the context of these earlier reports, and has included a new section on non-Catholic students. Non-Catholic student enrolments in Catholic schools was collected nationally by NCEC for the first time in 2006, and will become an annual collection, with annual reporting in future versions of this report. Detailed analysis of Catholic and non-Catholic students will be reported to NCEC in February 2007.

Developing research reports separate from annual enrolment trends reports has enabled the Working Group to provide NCEC with a greater depth of research of policy related topics relating to enrolment trends in Catholic education. The strategy of providing separate research papers will enable the possibility of providing greater understanding and analysis for states and dioceses than the annual report permitted. The first separate research report from the Working Group was *Indigenous Student Trends in Catholic Schools, 1985-2004* (June 2005). Research topics for 2007 will include:

1. Catholic and Non-Catholic Students in Australian Catholic Schools
To be presented at NCEC February 2007 Commission meeting.
2. Catholic and Non-Catholic Staff in Australian Catholic Schools
To be presented at NCEC June 2007 Commission meeting.
3. The Sectoral Context of Catholic School Trends
To be presented at NCEC November 2007 Commission meeting.

Results of the 2006 ABS Census of Population and Housing will be released by the ABS from mid-2007. The Working Group will provide NCEC with updated analysis of the enrolment trends and policy issues explored in earlier reports from the Working Group as this data is released by the ABS.

In preparing the first report on Catholic school enrolment trends, the Working Group recommended the development of a permanent database for research relating to Catholic school trends beyond the first report. NCEC supported the development of the permanent electronic database, and the Australian Catholic Education Statistics (ACES) database was officially launched by NCEC on 10 September 2003.

The Australian Catholic Education Statistics (ACES) database has enabled the analysis for this report, and other questions relating to Catholic education, to be examined in the national context, and for trends in state/territory commissions to be placed in a context beyond their dominion. ACES is available to all states and territories, and is being utilised by states to investigate local trends and policy questions, including those examined in this report.

Membership of the ACES Working Group is drawn from each state Commission. The membership is:

Brian Croke	Chair	Vin Thomas	South Australia
Joan Warhurst	NCEC	Eileen Lawrance	Western Australia
Bill Walsh	NSW	Neville Behrens	Tasmania
Jeff Gunn	Victoria	Richard Keys	Northern Territory
Greg Rogers	Queensland	Michael Haigh	ACT

Administrative, technical support, and research analysis is provided to the Working Group and the database users by Crichton Smith (CEC,NSW). Database maintenance and development is provided by Andrew Forbes (CEC,NSW).

As with previous reports, it is the view of the Working Group that this report does not represent a definitive and conclusive analysis of trends in Catholic schools. Instead, this report is best viewed as work in progress, as it provides a summary snapshot of Catholic school enrolment trends and policy issues at the present time. Consequently, the issues investigated here continue to form part of a program of ongoing analysis and discussion, as will the research papers to be presented throughout this year and beyond. Hopefully, this report, and the research papers point the way to new directions and more meaningful analyses of data to enhance policy and planning for Australia's Catholic schools.

Key Trends

The main trends arising from this report are:

- There were 685,270 students in Australian Catholic schools in 2006. This was an increase of more than 110,000 students since 1985.
- Enrolments in Catholic schools increased by 7,611 students in 2006, which was the largest increase since 1997, and the third largest annual increase in the last two decades.
- Enrolments in primary schools increased by 3,170. Queensland was the state with the largest increase with 3,014 students, but nearly half of the Queensland increase (46%) is likely to be due to the recent introduction of the 'prep year'.
- Victoria has had the largest decrease in primary enrolments in recent years, but had an increase of 196 primary students in 2006. NSW had the largest decrease in primary enrolments in 2006, with a decrease of 568 students from the previous year.
- Secondary enrolments increased by 4,442 in 2006. This continues the trend for the increase in secondary enrolments being larger than the increase in primary. Secondary enrolments now comprise 45% of Catholic school enrolments.
- The Apparent Retention Rate from Catholic primary to Catholic secondary school was 115.4 for boys and 118.8 for girls. With retention significantly greater than 100%, it is clear that many students from other schools commence their Catholic education in secondary school.
- The post-compulsory retention rates for males 73.2% and for females was 82.3%. This retention rate increased in ACT and NSW for males, and in NSW, SA and WA for females.
- There were 12,212 Indigenous students in Catholic schools in 2006, which was an increase of 658 students from the previous year. Indigenous enrolments increased in every state and territory.
- There were 19,841 SWD students in Catholic schools in 2006, which was an increase of 1,383 students from the previous year. Indigenous enrolments also increased in every state and territory.
- There were 2,109 FFPOS students in 2006, which was a decrease of 60 students from 2005. Primary students continue to increase as a proportion of the FFPOS enrolments, and now comprise 17% of FFPOS enrolments.
- Only 14% of Catholic schools have FFPOS students; and more than half the schools with FFPOS students enrolled have only between one and three students enrolled.
- There were 165,718 non-Catholic students in Catholic schools in 2006, which represented 24% of all students enrolled.

Catholic School Enrolment Trends

Enrolment Trends

The number of students in Australian Catholic schools has increased every year since 1985. Between 1985 and 2006, this was more than 110,000 students – with enrolments in Catholic schools increasing from 575,000 to 685,000 students, as shown in **Graph 1** and **Table 1**.

While the number of students has increased every year since 1985, growth has not always had a consistent increase, there has not been a consistent growth rate. From 1992 to 1993, enrolments increased by just 235 students, while in 1996, the growth was 8,098 students more than the previous year.

Student enrolments in Catholic schools in Australia increased by 7,611 students in 2006. This was the largest increase since 1997 and the third largest annual increase in the last two decades. However, this increase should be viewed in the context of the recent introduction of the pre-year 1, or 'Prep Year' in Queensland, which is an important component for this relatively large increase.

Graph 1: Students in Catholic schools, Australia, 1985-2006

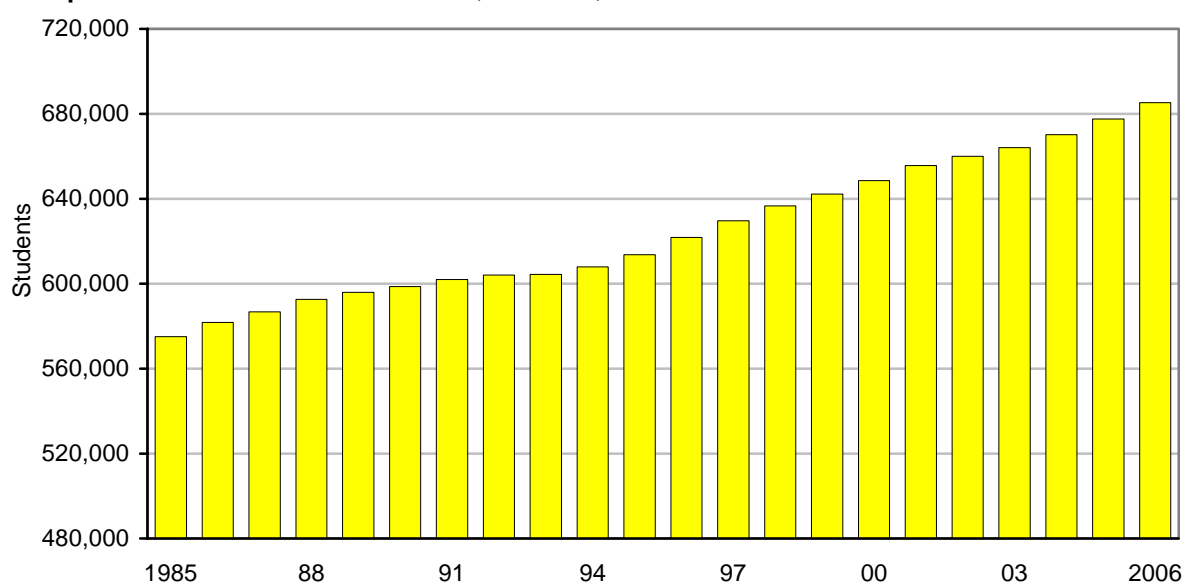


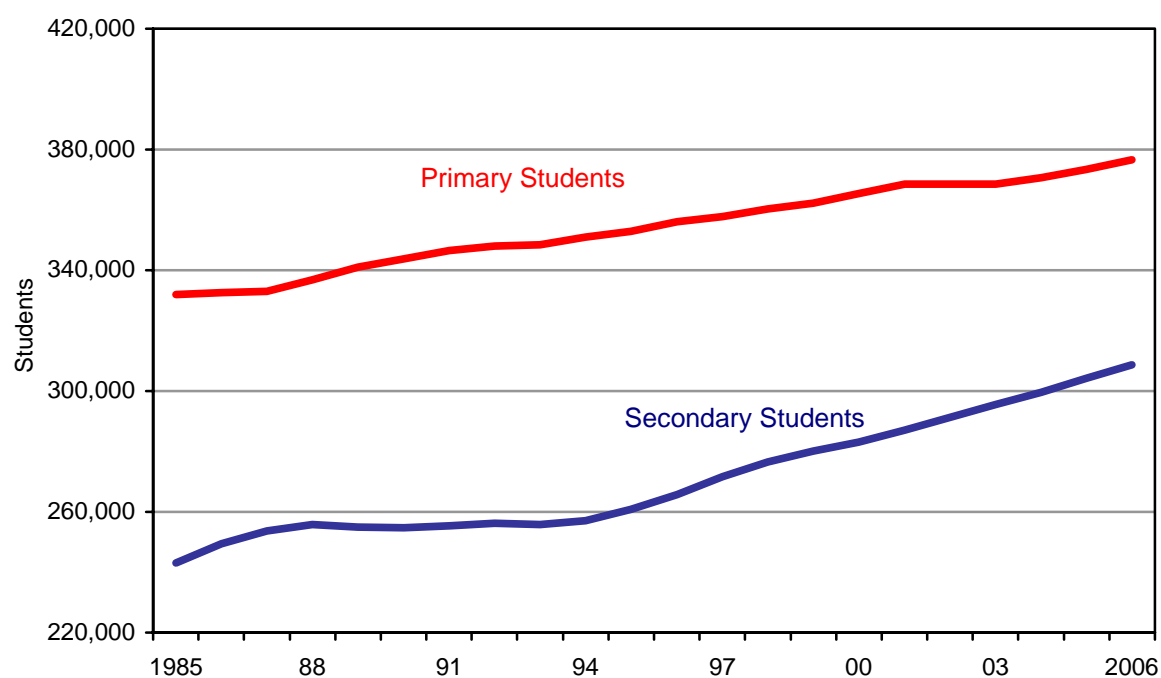
Table 1: Student enrolments and annual change in Catholic schools, Australia, 1985-2006

Year	Students in Catholic Schools	Change from previous year	
		(Number)	(% Change)
1985	575,005	—	—
1986	581,846	6,841	1.2%
1987	586,757	4,911	0.8%
1988	592,640	5,883	1.0%
1989	595,936	3,296	0.6%
1990	598,586	2,650	0.4%
1991	601,917	3,331	0.6%
1992	604,119	2,202	0.4%
1993	604,354	235	0.0%
1994	608,022	3,668	0.6%
1995	613,722	5,700	0.9%
1996	621,820	8,098	1.3%
1997	629,579	7,759	1.2%
1998	636,727	7,148	1.1%
1999	642,218	5,491	0.9%
2000	648,578	6,360	1.0%
2001	655,636	7,058	1.1%
2002	660,024	4,388	0.7%
2003	664,124	4,100	0.6%
2004	670,268	6,144	0.9%
2005	677,659	7,391	1.1%
2006	685,270	7,611	1.1%

Primary and Secondary Enrolment Trends

Of particular interest are the varying patterns of growth across both primary and secondary schools. Graph 2 illustrates the changing proportions of primary and secondary enrolments in Catholic education. Since 1985, primary enrolments have increased by 44,621, while secondary enrolments have increased by 65,644. This has resulted in secondary enrolments increasing from 42% of all enrolments in 1985, to 45% of enrolments in 2006.

Graph 2: Students in Catholic schools, Primary and Secondary, Australia, 1985-2006



The 2001 *Report of the Working Party on Catholic School Enrolments* identified that from 1985 to 2000, growth in primary school enrolments occurred in every state and territory (other than the ACT, while *Enrolment Trends 2003* identified that primary enrolments declined from 2000 to 2003 in Victoria, Western Australia, Northern Territory and Tasmania. Subsequent reports confirmed that primary enrolments continued to decline in Victoria and Northern Territory. The reports identified that for secondary enrolments, every state and territory in Australia had an increase in secondary student enrolments from 1985 to 2005, with the exception of Northern Territory, which had minor declines in 2004 and 2005.

Table 2 and **Graph 3** shows that there has been a significant shift in primary enrolments from 2005 to 2006 across the states. While Northern Territory continues to have declining primary enrolments (since 2000), Victorian primary enrolments increased for the first time since 2000. South Australia had a slight decline in primary enrolments (for the first time since 1985), while NSW had a significant decline of 568 primary enrolments (which was larger than the decline of 354 primary students from 2001 to 2002).

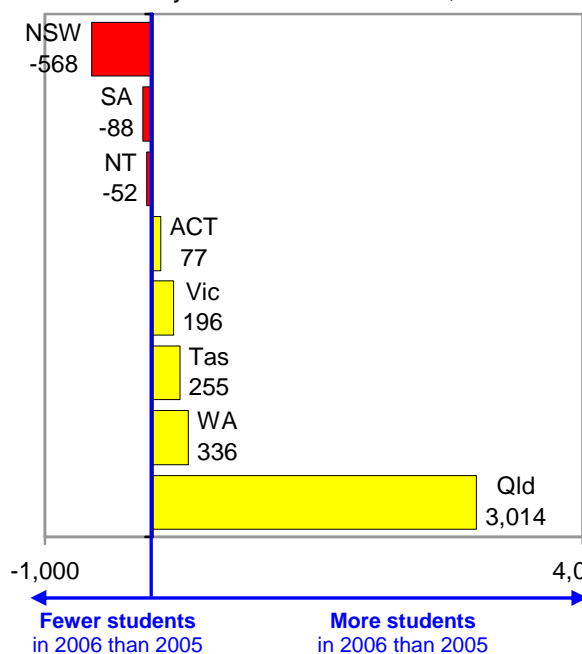
Table 2 and **Graph 4** shows that enrolments in Catholic secondary schools continued the trend in 2004 and previous years, with almost all states and territories, continuing to increase secondary enrolments. Secondary enrolments in Northern Territory increased from 2005 to 2006, reversing a slight decrease the previous year; ACT had a slight decrease in secondary enrolments from 2005 to 2006.

While there was an increase of 3,170 primary students nationally from 2005 to 2006, the increase was mostly due to the increase in enrolments in Queensland. As reported in *Enrolment Trends 2003*, this significant increase in Catholic primary school enrolments is likely to be the result of the recent introduction of pre-year 1, or 'Prep Year' in Queensland, as it had been previously in Western Australia. Excluding the increase of 1,469 Queensland Prep students, the net national increase in primary enrolments from 2005 to 2006 was 1,701 students, (Queensland still had an increase of 1,545 primary students excluding the Prep year). The relatively small increase in Catholic primary enrolments in Australia was due, in part, to the decline in NSW, as had previously occurred in Victoria.

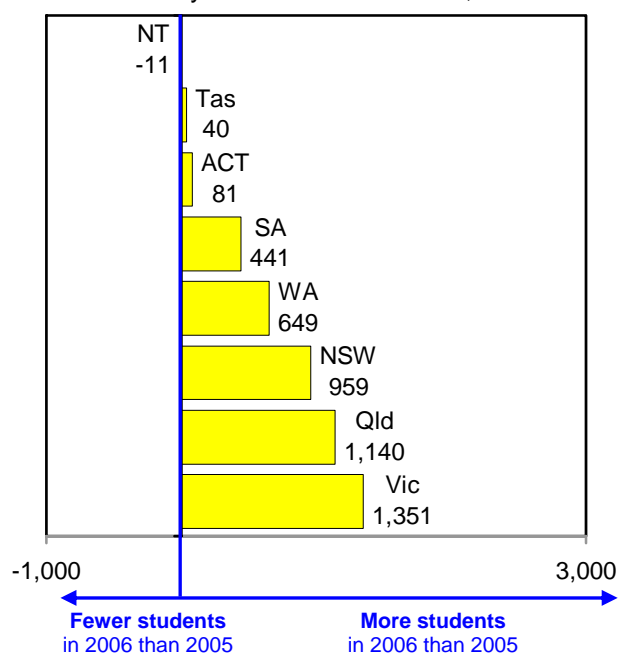
Table 2: Changes in Catholic school enrolments, by States and Territories, 2005-2006

	Primary		Secondary		All Students	
	2006	Change from 2005	2006	Change from 2005	2006	Change from 2005
ACT	8,726	77	8,488	-63	17,214	13
New South Wales	124,918	-568	114,481	694	239,399	126
Northern Territory	2,948	-52	1,536	54	4,484	1
Queensland	70,375	3,014	48,752	1,483	119,127	4,496
South Australia	27,781	-88	18,450	360	46,230	272
Tasmania	7,226	255	6,455	164	13,681	420
Victoria	98,589	196	83,815	1,532	182,404	1,728
Western Australia	36,081	336	26,649	218	62,730	554
Australia	376,644	3,170	308,626	4,442	685,269	7,610

Graph 3: Change in Catholic Primary enrolments, by States and Territories, 2005-2006



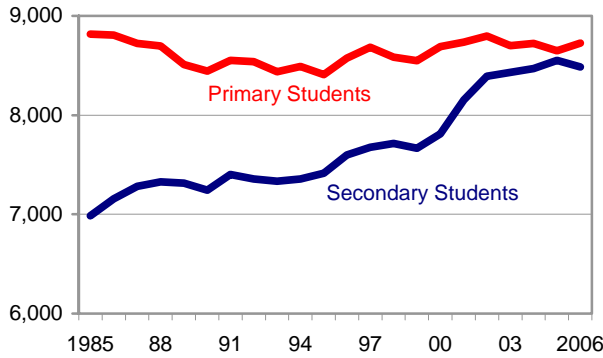
Graph 4: Change in Catholic Secondary enrolments, by States and Territories, 2005-2006



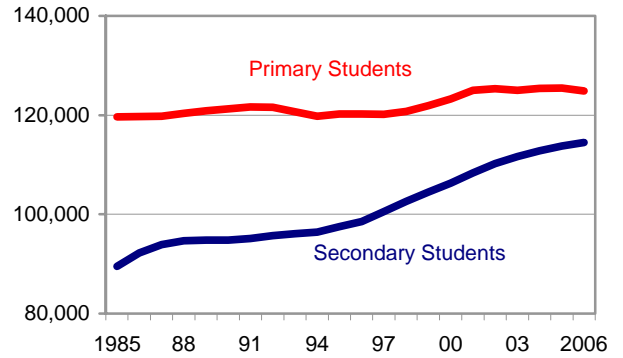
Graphs 5 to 12 report the primary and secondary enrolments for each state and territory from 1985 to 2006. Note that the graphs are on different scales.

Graphs 5 to 12: Primary and Secondary Enrolments in Catholic schools, individual States and Territories, 1985-2006

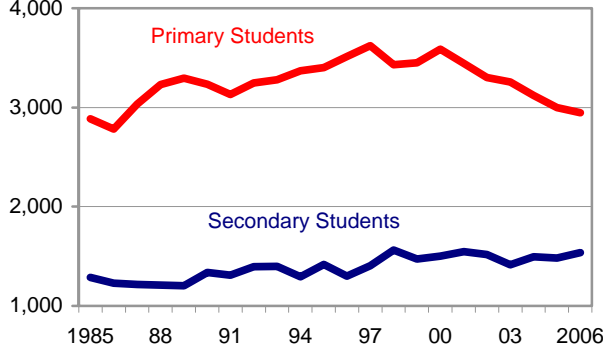
Graph 5: Australian Capital Territory



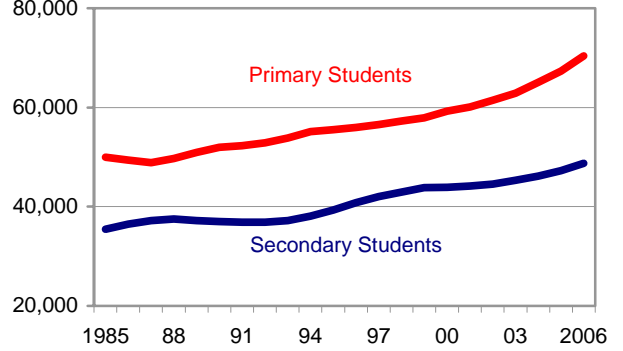
Graph 6: New South Wales



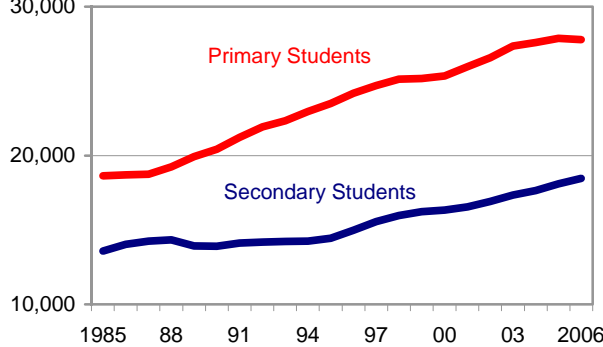
Graph 7: Northern Territory



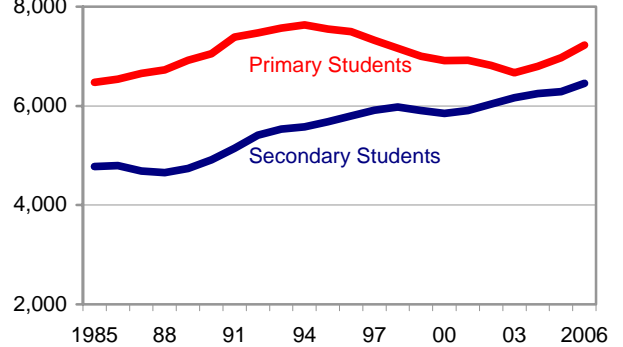
Graph 8: Queensland



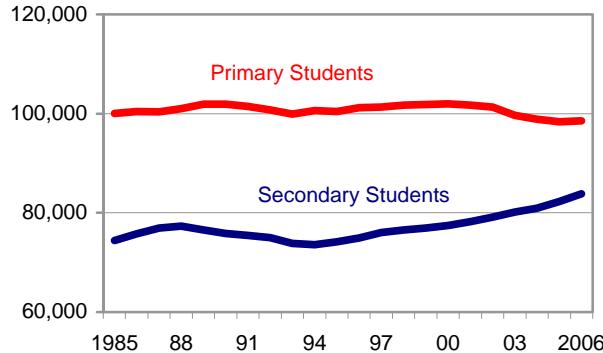
Graph 9: South Australia



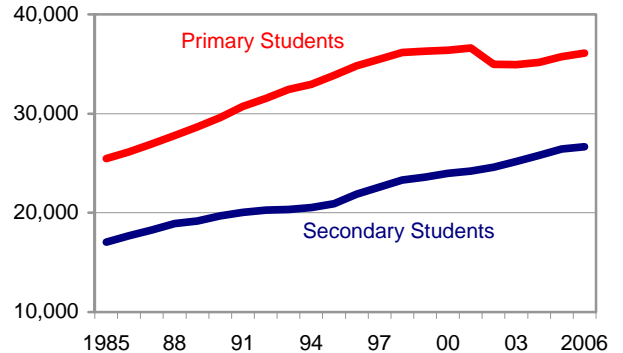
Graph 10: Tasmania



Graph 11: Victoria



Graph 12: Western Australia



Student Retention

Part of the growth in secondary schools has been created by students enrolling in Catholic secondary schools as the first enrolment in a Catholic school; and by students increasingly tending to stay in Catholic schools once they commence. Retention rates in excess of 100% from Catholic primary to Catholic secondary means in effect that there are more students in the first year of Catholic secondary schools than there were in the last year of Catholic primary school the previous year. Clearly, many students from other schools commence their Catholic education in secondary school. Anecdotal evidence suggests that a considerable number of these are Catholic students for whom the local government primary school was more convenient than the Catholic school. It also suggests that many parents seek to confine their fee-paying commitment to the secondary school years only.

Graph 13 shows that the Apparent Retention Rate for students from primary to secondary increased has been greater than 100% for males and females since 1986; and has overall continued to increase annually. Since 2003, the retention of boys has increased from 113.8% to 115.4%, and girls increased from 115.9% to 118.8% (although this was marginally higher for girls in 2005 at 118.9%). As **Table 3** highlights, the retention from primary to secondary was greater than 100% in all states and territories. As such, there were more students in Catholic secondary schools in 2006 than had been in Catholic primary schools in 2005.

Graph 13: Apparent Retention Rates, Catholic Primary to Catholic Secondary schools, Australia, 1986-2006

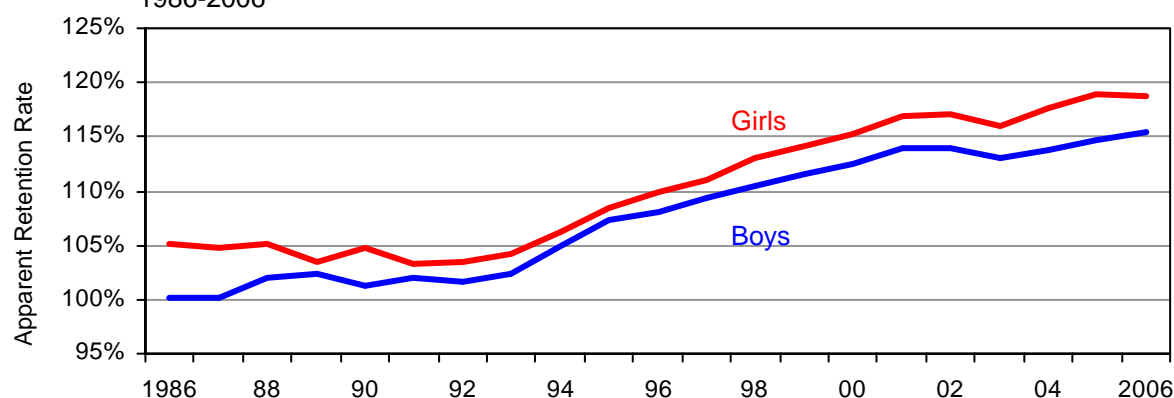


Table 3: Apparent Retention Rates, Catholic Primary to Catholic Secondary schools, Australia and States and Territories, 2006

	Boys	Girls	All Students
ACT	110.8	135.6	122.2
New South Wales	118.7	119.6	119.2
Northern Territory	118.8	110.4	114.5
Queensland	118.8	123.6	121.1
South Australia	112.6	111.9	112.2
Tasmania	115.9	106.5	110.9
Victoria	104.5	111.3	107.8
Western Australia	125.2	120.4	122.7
Australia	115.4	118.8	117.1

Note: NSW, ACT, Vic and Tas retention are from Grade 6 to Grade 7. SA, NT, Qld and WA are from Grade 7 to 8.

A contributing factor to the increase in enrolments in Catholic secondary schools has been the increasing improvement in the secondary Apparent Retention Rate in the 1980s and early 1990s, although this is now fairly stable in all states. Significantly, there has always been a difference in Apparent Retention Rates between boys and girls in all school sectors and that is no less evident in Catholic schools, and the Apparent Retention Rate for girls remains consistently higher than for boys.

The Apparent Retention Rate for post-compulsory education (students in Catholic schools staying from Year 10 to complete year 12) increased from 1987, to the highest level in 1992 for females (85.5%), and 1993 for males (78.2%). Retention rates increased again between 1992 and 1998, but the last few years have witnessed a slight decline in post-compulsory retention rates nationally (**Graph 14**). In 2006, the post-compulsory retention rate for females was 82.3%, and for males was 73.2% (**Table 4**). While post-compulsory retention rates continued to decrease nationally for males, the male retention rates in ACT and NSW increased from 2005. For females, retention increased in NSW, South Australia and Western Australia in 2006.

Graph 14: Apparent Retention Rates for post-compulsory schooling (Year 10 to Year 12) in Catholic Secondary schools, Australia, 1987-2006

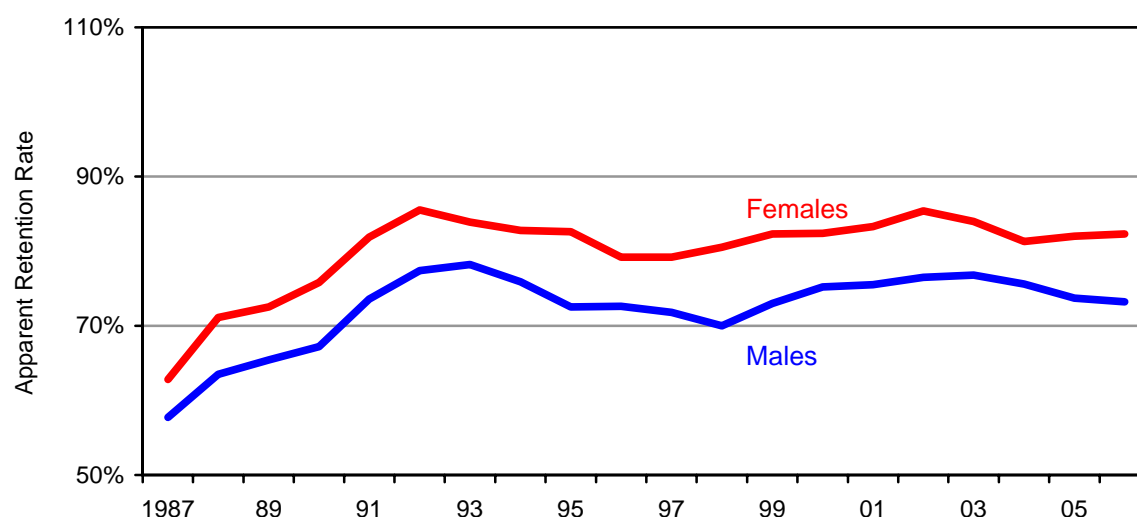


Table 4: Apparent Retention Rates for post-compulsory schooling (Year 10 to Year 12) in Catholic secondary schools, States and Territories, 2006

	Males	Females	All Students
ACT	80.0	71.0	75.5
New South Wales	72.1	80.3	76.2
Northern Territory	32.3	35.6	34.0
Queensland	77.7	85.1	81.3
South Australia	73.6	87.2	80.7
Tasmania	46.6	67.3	56.8
Victoria	74.8	85.9	80.4
Western Australia	71.6	80.6	76.0
Australia	73.2	82.3	77.8

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students

It is important to recognize the increased openness of Catholic schools to Indigenous students in recent years. The number and proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) students has increased significantly over the period 1985-2006 (**Graph 15** and **Table 5**), and in all states and territories (**Table 6**). This national increase is likely to be maintained for the foreseeable future, especially given the increased levels of financial and other support now available for Indigenous students. One of the key factors has been the significant increase in the level of Commonwealth Government support mainly through the Indigenous Education Strategic Initiatives Programme. Apart from the Commonwealth program, many dioceses began to develop more systematic enrolment and support policies in response to the Statement by Pope John Paul II to the Indigenous community at Alice Springs in 1985. In 2006, there were 12,212 Indigenous students in Catholic schools, which was an increase of 658 students from the previous year.

Further research from the ACES Working Group on the enrolment trends for Indigenous students is available from *Indigenous Student Trends in Catholic Schools 1985-2004* (June 2005), available at http://www.ncec.catholic.edu.au/ncec_stats.htm

Graph 15: Number and percentage of students identified as ATSI in Catholic schools, Australia, 1985-2006

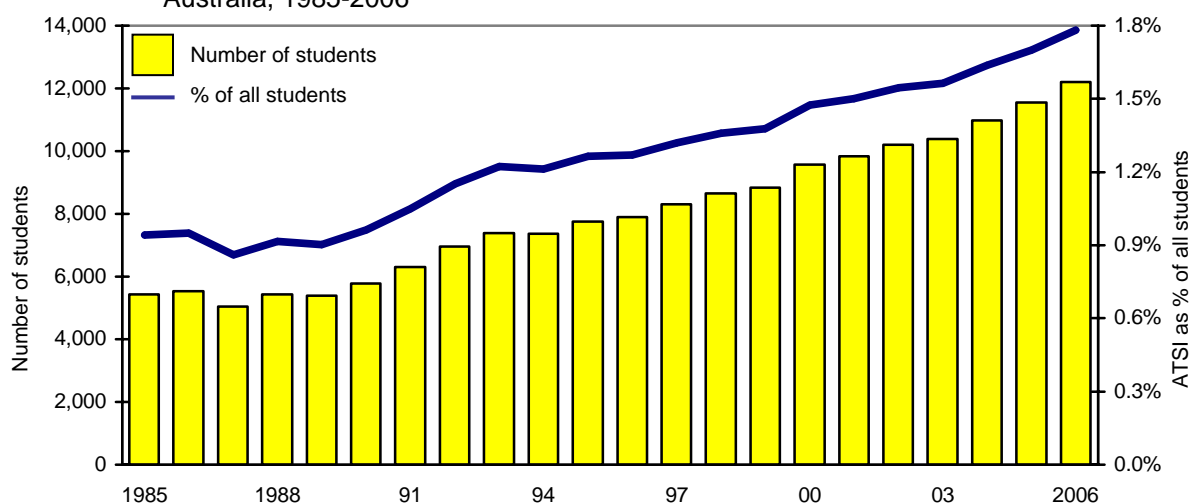


Table 5: Number and percentage of students identified as ATSI in Catholic schools, Australia, 1985-2006

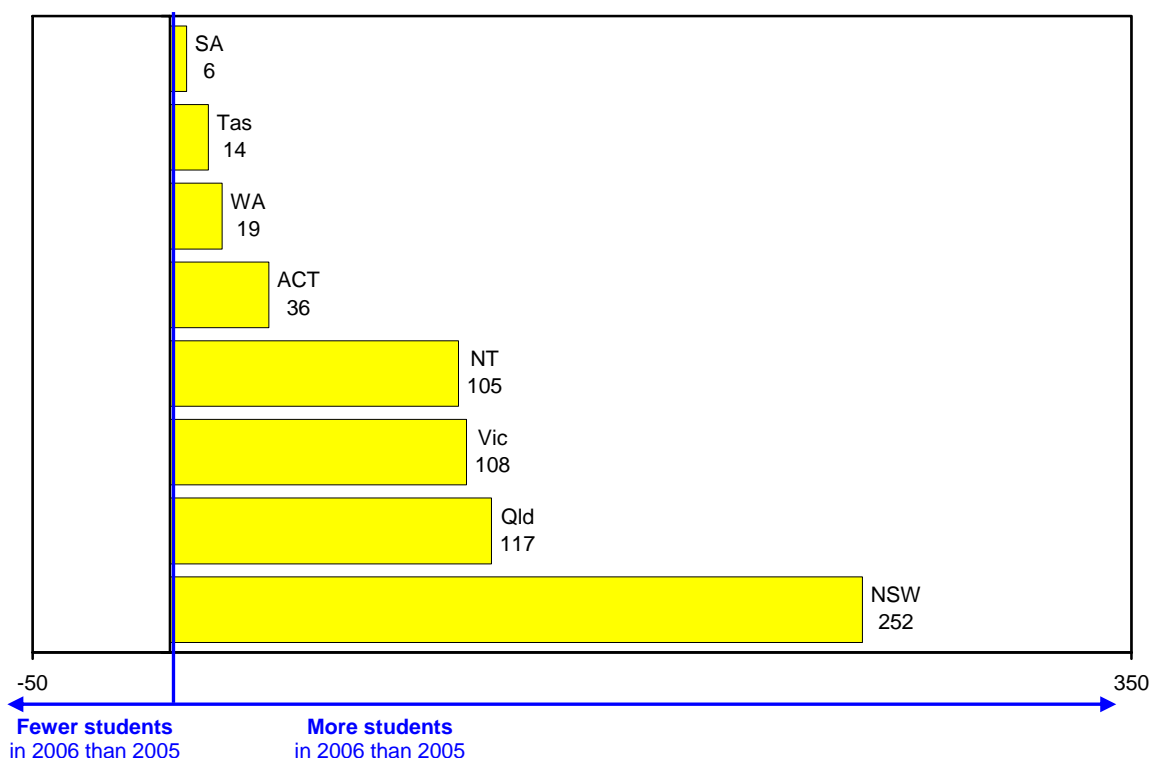
Year	ATSI Students	ATSI as % of all students
1985	5,423	0.9%
1986	5,523	0.9%
1987	5,045	0.9%
1988	5,425	0.9%
1989	5,384	0.9%
1990	5,769	1.0%
1991	6,313	1.0%
1992	6,951	1.2%
1993	7,385	1.2%
1994	7,369	1.2%
1995	7,763	1.3%
1996	7,895	1.3%
1997	8,316	1.3%
1998	8,655	1.4%
1999	8,845	1.4%
2000	9,566	1.5%
2001	9,843	1.5%
2002	10,199	1.5%
2003	10,394	1.6%
2004	10,976	1.6%
2005	11,554	1.7%
2006	12,212	1.8%

Table 6: Number and percentage of students identified as ATSI in Catholic schools, States and Territories, 1985 and 2006

	1985		2006		Change from 1985 to 2006	Proportion of ATSI students in each State
	Number of Students	% of Students	Number of Students	% of Students		
ACT	10	0.1%	197	1.1%	187	2%
NSW	1,029	0.5%	3,580	1.5%	2,551	29%
NT	1,060	25.4%	1,402	31.3%	342	11%
Queensland	1,400	1.6%	3,190	2.7%	1,790	26%
SA	83	0.3%	417	0.9%	334	3%
Tasmania	131	1.2%	491	3.6%	360	4%
Victoria	93	0.1%	674	0.4%	581	6%
WA	1,617	3.8%	2,260	3.6%	643	19%
Australia	5,423	0.9%	12,212	1.8%	6,789	100%

Graph 16 illustrates that the number of Indigenous students in Catholic schools increased in every state from 2005 to 2006, reversing the slight decrease in Indigenous students in the two territories from 2004 to 2005.

Graph 16: Recent change in ATSI student enrolments in Catholic schools, States and Territories, 2005-2006



Students with a Disability

The fastest growing category of students in Catholic schools from 1985 to 2006 has been those with a disability (**Graph 17**), and this has occurred in every state and territory (**Table 8**). As with Indigenous students, there arose a greater awareness among Catholic educators in the early 1980s of the educational needs of Students with a Disability (SWD) and a preference for integrating them into regular schools wherever possible. This led to improved access to appropriately trained staff and better advisory services. Despite the failure of the Commonwealth to match the increase in students with comparable per capita funding increases, the trend of increased enrolment of Students with a Disability is likely to continue. The advent of the Commonwealth *Disability Discrimination Act* in 1992 is clearly reflected in the data. It has both heightened awareness and created a real pressure point for enrolment. In brief, the data illustrates that Catholic schools have responded significantly to this particular challenge. In 2006, there were 19,841 SWD students in Catholic schools, which was an increase of 1,383 students from the previous year.

Graph 17: Number and percentage of SWD students in Catholic schools, Australia, 1985-2006

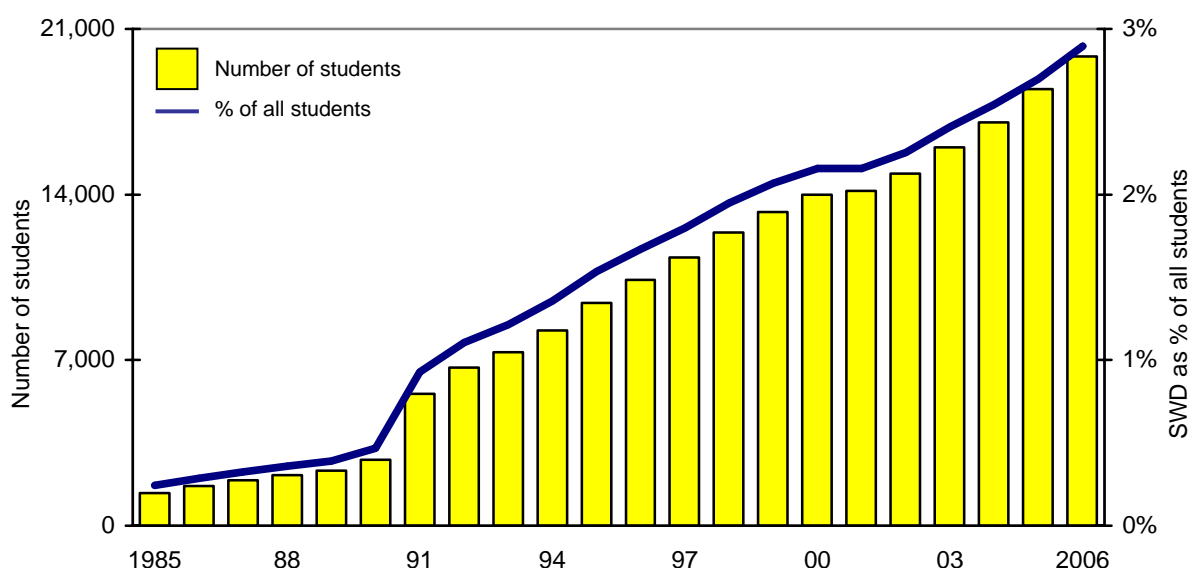


Table 7: Number and percentage of SWD students in Catholic Schools, Australia, 1985-2006

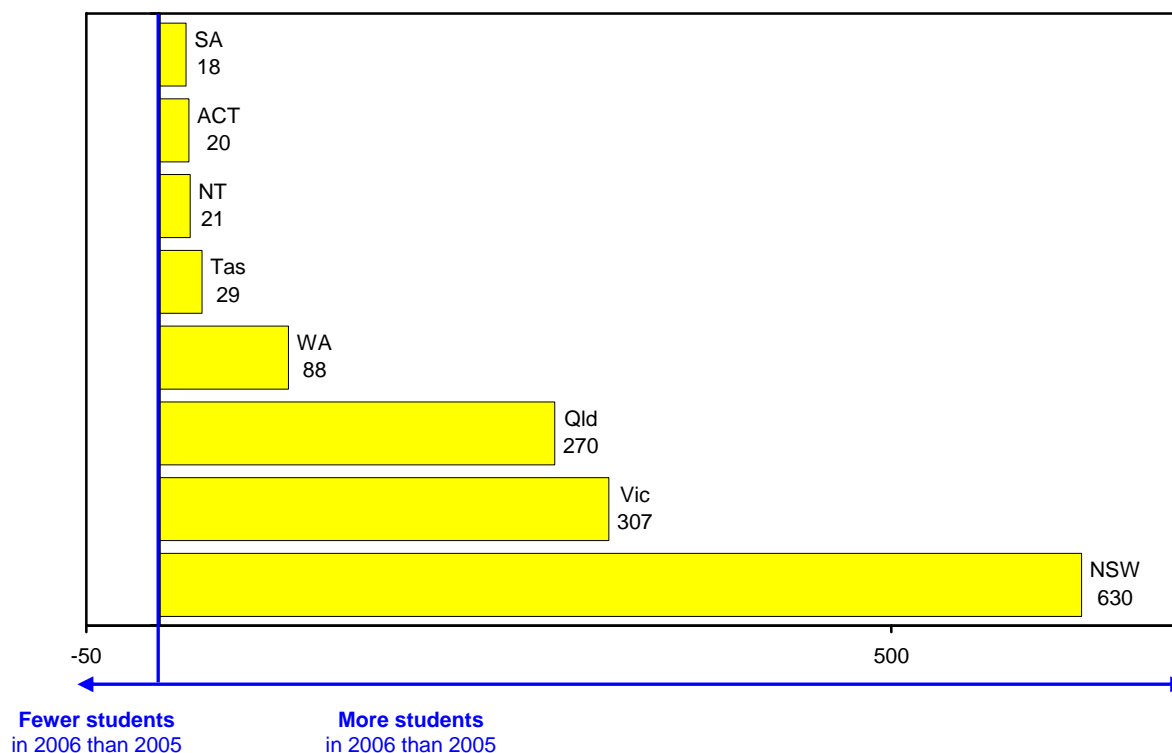
Year	SWD Students	SWD as % of all students
1985	1,391	0.2%
1986	1,666	0.3%
1987	1,908	0.3%
1988	2,126	0.4%
1989	2,316	0.4%
1990	2,800	0.5%
1991	5,585	0.9%
1992	6,687	1.1%
1993	7,336	1.2%
1994	8,242	1.4%
1995	9,425	1.5%
1996	10,394	1.7%
1997	11,329	1.8%
1998	12,396	1.9%
1999	13,271	2.1%
2000	13,992	2.2%
2001	14,156	2.2%
2002	14,873	2.3%
2003	15,999	2.4%
2004	17,058	2.5%
2005	18,458	2.7%
2006	19,841	2.9%

Table 8: Number and percentage of SWD students in Catholic schools, States and Territories, 1985 and 2006

	1985		2006		Change from 1985 to 2006	Proportion of SWD in each State (2006)
	Number of Students	% of Students	Number of Students	% of Students		
ACT	92	0.6%	256	1.5%	164	1%
NSW	377	0.2%	8,805	3.7%	8,428	44%
NT	Nil	—	118	2.6%	118	1%
Queensland	177	0.2%	2,502	2.1%	2,325	13%
SA	371	1.2%	1,393	3.0%	1,022	7%
Tasmania	12	0.1%	219	1.6%	207	1%
Victoria	287	0.2%	5,142	2.8%	4,855	26%
WA	75	0.2%	1,406	2.2%	1,331	7%
Australia	1,391	0.2%	19,841	2.9%	18,450	100%

Graph 18 shows that the number of Students with a Disability in Catholic schools increased from 2005 to 2006 in every state and territory. In 2005, Victoria had the largest increase; but in 2006, NSW was the state with the largest number of SWD students, having almost half (45%) of the increase in SWD students from 2005 to 2006.

Graph 18: Recent change in SWD student enrolments in Catholic schools, States and Territories, 2005-2006



Full-Fee Paying Overseas Students

Catholic schools entered the FFPOS scheme on its introduction by the Commonwealth Government in 1989. In the following years, at least until 1997, the number of FFPOS grew quickly and consistently (**Graph 19**). From 1997 to 2001 FFPOS declined in all states and territories except NSW, and this was attributable to a number of factors including the fact that Catholic schools found that there were considerable pastoral challenges involved in providing for such students. From 2001 to 2004, FFPOS enrolments increased nationally, due to the increase in FFPOS enrolments in NSW, South Australia and Victoria (**Table 11**). However, from 2005 to 2006, FFPOS enrolments have increased in ACT, Queensland, South Australia and Victoria (**Table 9**).

Graph 19: FFPOS in Catholic schools, Australia, 1989-2006

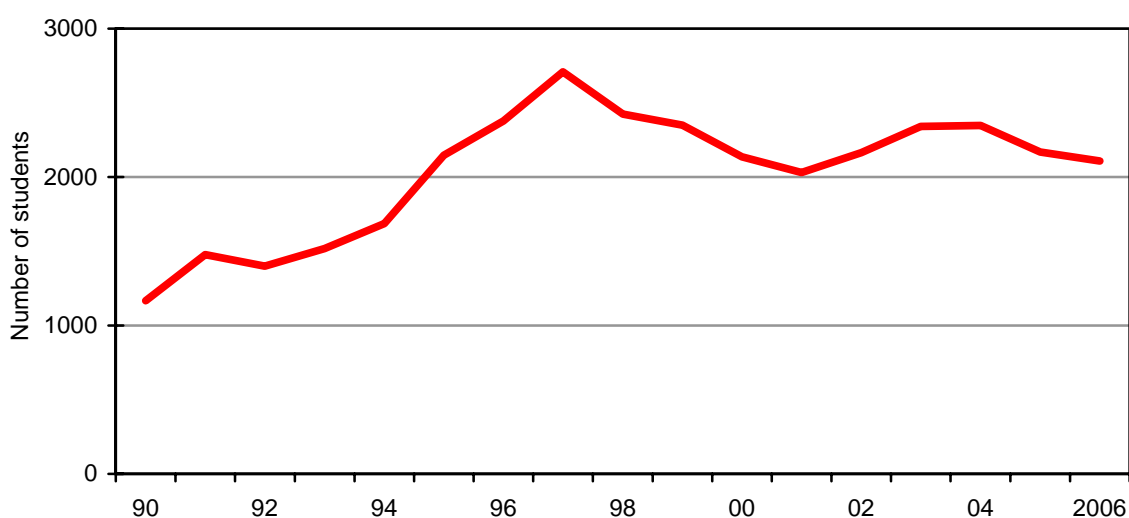


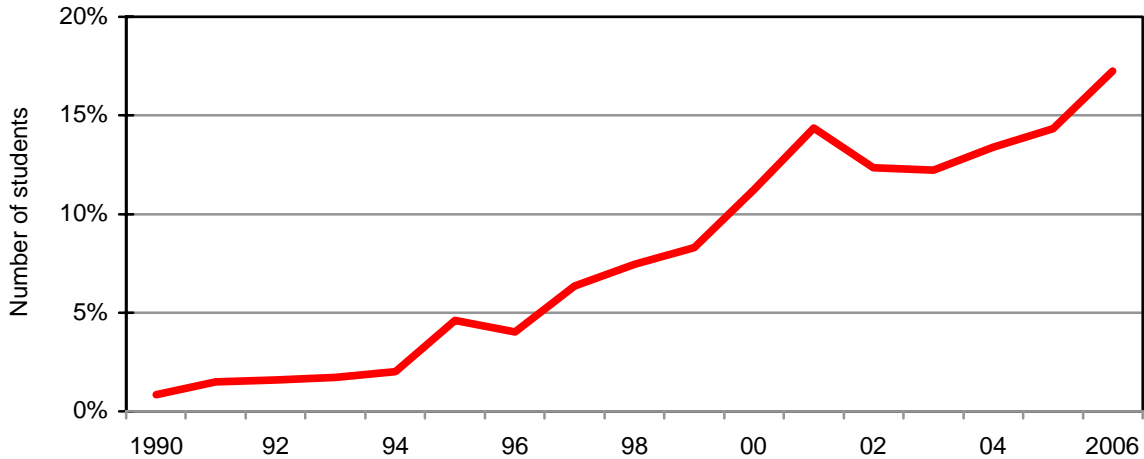
Table 9: FFPOS in Catholic schools, Australia and States and Territories, 1990, 2005 and 2006

	1990	2005	2006	Change 2005-2006	Proportion of FFPOS in each State
ACT	9	15	16	1	1%
New South Wales	462	883	825	-58	38%
Northern Territory	4	67	55	-12	3%
Queensland	227	384	411	27	19%
South Australia	58	330	343	13	16%
Tasmania	1	3	2	-1	0%
Victoria	191	256	267	11	12%
Western Australia	215	231	190	-41	9%
Australia	1,167	2,169	2,109	-60	100%

FFPOS Students in Primary Schools

In 1989, FFPOS students were almost exclusively enrolled in secondary education, but since 1996 the proportion of FFPOS students in primary schools has been increasing (other than in 2002 and 2003), and primary enrolments now comprise 17% of all FFPOS enrolments in Australian Catholic schools, as highlighted in **Graph 20**.

Graph 20: FFPOS in Primary schools, as proportion of all FFPOS in Catholic Schools, Australia, 1990-2006

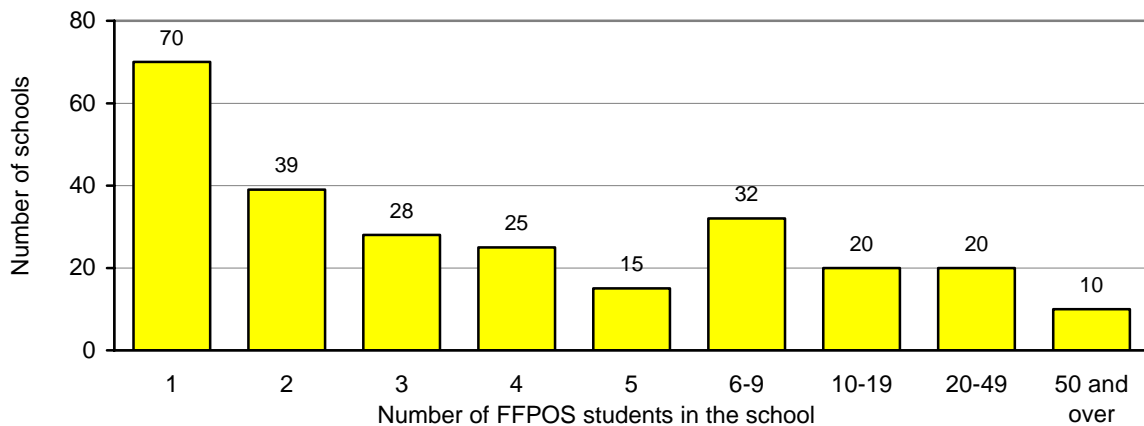


Schools with FFPOS students

Since 1989, the number of schools with FFPOS students enrolled has increased, but from year to year, the schools with FFPOS students can change. This is because the majority of the schools with FFPOS students have only 1 or 2 students (**Graph 21**), and very few Catholic schools in Australia have large numbers of FFPOS students. Of the 259 schools with FFPOS students enrolled in 2006, only 4% (10 schools) had more than 50 FFPOS students (of which only 3 schools had more than 100 FFPOS students). 164 FFPOS students was the largest number in any Catholic school in Australia.

The more common pattern for schools with FFPOS students is for schools to have only one or two FFPOS students enrolled. As **Graph 21** highlights, more than half (52%) of schools had only 1, 2 or 3 FFPOS students enrolled. Significantly however, 86% of Catholic schools in Australia had no FFPOS students enrolled in 2006.

Graph 21: Number of FFPOS students by number of Catholic schools, Australia, 2006



Non-Catholic Students

In 2006, NCEC committed to the annual, national collection of Catholic and non-Catholic enrolments from all Catholic schools. The following provides the numbers and proportions of non-Catholic students in the states and territories in 2006. The report *Non-Catholic Student Enrolments in Catholic Schools, 2006* provides detailed analysis, and will be reported to NCEC in February 2007.

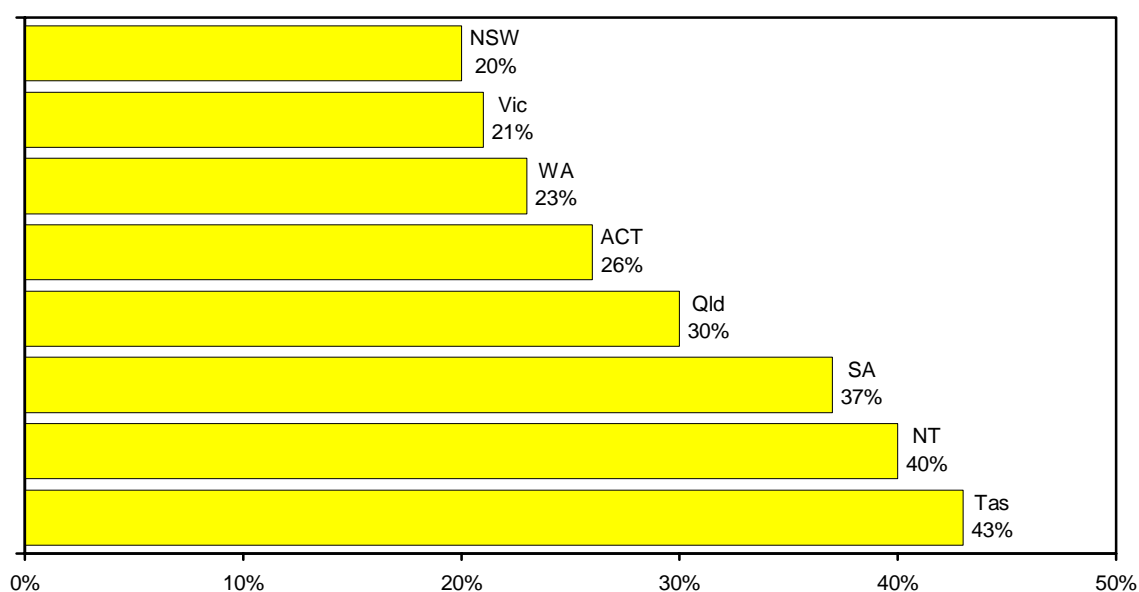
Table 10 reports that there were 165,700 non-Catholic students enrolled in Australian Catholic schools, which represented 24% of all students. Graph 22 highlights that the proportion of non-Catholic enrolments ranged from 20% in NSW to 43% in Tasmania.

Table 10: Non-Catholic and Catholic enrolments, States and Territories, 2006

	Non-Catholic Students		Catholic Students	
	No.	% of students	No.	% of students
Australian Capital Territory	4,424	26%	12,781	74%
New South Wales	46,968	20%	192,392	80%
Northern Territory	1,819	40%	2,711	60%
Queensland	35,819	30%	84,176	70%
South Australia	17,116	37%	29,570	63%
Tasmania	6,384	43%	8,460	57%
Victoria	38,707	21%	142,192	79%
Western Australia	14,481	23%	48,642	77%
Australia	165,718	24%	520,924	76%

Note: Student numbers vary slightly from other counts reported in Enrolment Trends 2006 as Catholic and Non-Catholic enrolments were not enumerated at the same day as the Annual School Census. Additionally, three Catholic schools have not provided Catholic/Non-Catholic enrolments.

Graph 22: Proportion of non-Catholic students, States and Territories, 2006



Catholic School Enrolment Trends (Diocesan Trends)

Diocesan Trends record the enrolment trends relevant to the individual dioceses within each state in the context of the national report. Dioceses in NSW and ACT have been combined, as the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn is located in NSW and ACT. Totals for diocesan tables in this supplement may vary slightly to State totals reported earlier in this report due to rounding of FTE student totals for dioceses. Diocesan tables in this section include all students enrolled in Congregational and in Systemic schools.

Enrolment Trends

As reported earlier, the total enrolments in Australian Catholic schools have increased by more than 100,000 students from 1985 to 2005. **Graph 23** and **Table 11** record the change in enrolments in each of the dioceses between 1988 and 2006.

Graph 23: Changes in Catholic school enrolments, by Diocese, 1985-2006

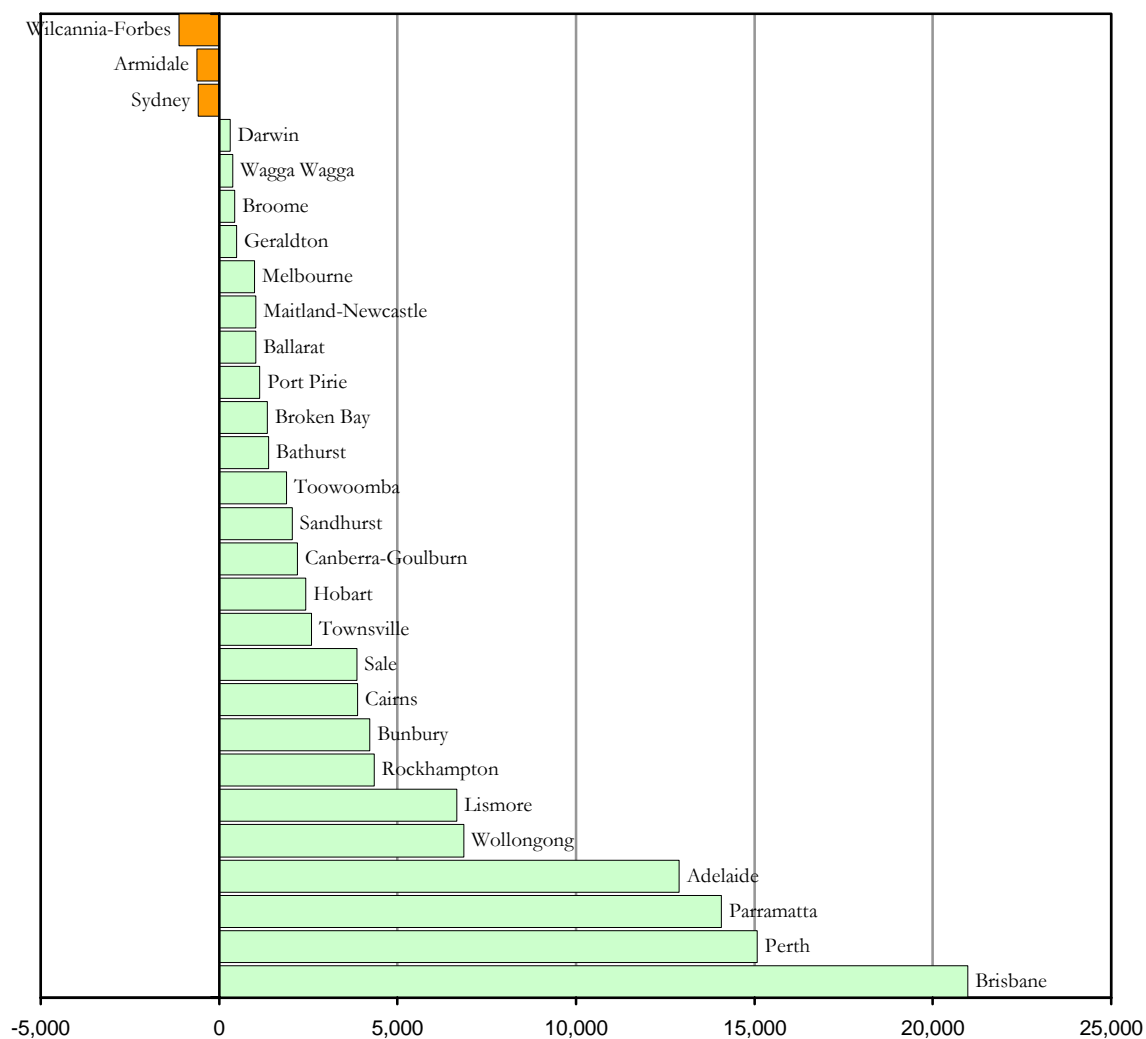


Table 11: Changes in Catholic school enrolments, by Diocese, 1985-2006

State	Diocese	1985	2006	Change
ACT and NSW	Armidale	6,557	5,932	-625
	Bathurst	8,364	9,759	1,395
	Broken Bay	21,352	22,703	1,351
	Canberra-Goulburn	22,621	24,814	2,193
	Lismore	10,877	17,536	6,659
	Maitland-Newcastle	16,170	17,200	1,030
	Parramatta	32,006	46,083	14,077
	Sydney	80,099	79,518	-581
	Wagga Wagga	8,214	8,596	382
	Wilcannia-Forbes	3,634	2,512	-1,122
Wollongong	15,090	21,959	6,869	
Northern Territory	Darwin	4,175	4,484	309
Queensland	Brisbane	53,878	74,866	20,988
	Cairns	5,138	9,027	3,889
	Rockhampton	9,816	14,160	4,344
	Toowoomba	8,038	9,920	1,882
	Townsville	8,559	11,154	2,595
South Australia	Adelaide	28,791	41,674	12,883
	Port Pirie	3,416	4,556	1,140
Tasmania	Hobart	11,254	13,681	2,427
Victoria	Ballarat	14,717	15,754	1,037
	Melbourne	136,477	137,476	999
	Sale	10,623	14,492	3,869
	Sandhurst	12,636	14,681	2,045
Western Australia	Broome	1,223	1,662	439
	Bunbury	3,375	7,593	4,218
	Geraldton	2,778	3,264	486
	Perth	35,128	50,211	15,083
National Total		575,006	685,267	110,261

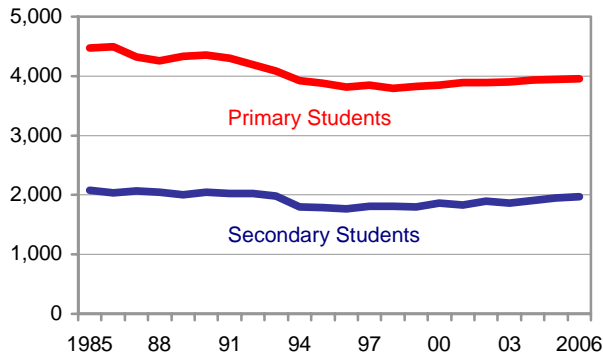
Primary and Secondary Enrolment Trends

The following graphs (**Graph 24 to 51**) show the enrolment trends for each diocese from 1985 to 2006 for primary and secondary enrolments. Note that the graphs are on different scales.

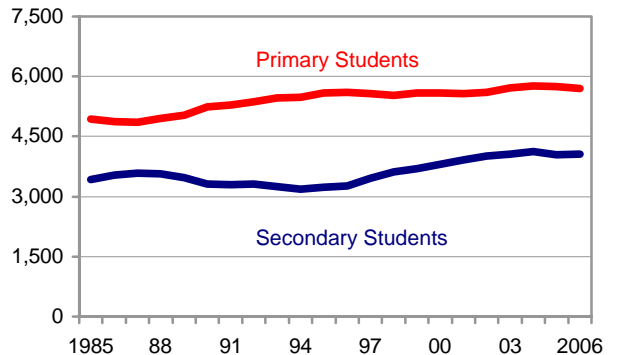
Graphs 24 to 51: Primary and Secondary Enrolments in Catholic schools, Individual Dioceses, 1985-2006

Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales

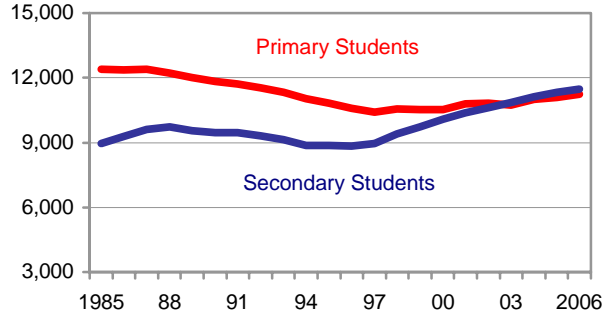
Graph 24: Armidale



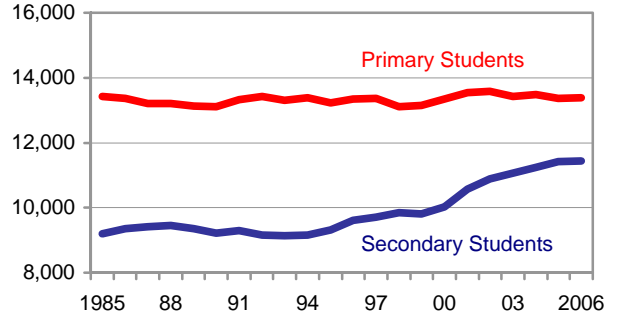
Graph 25: Bathurst



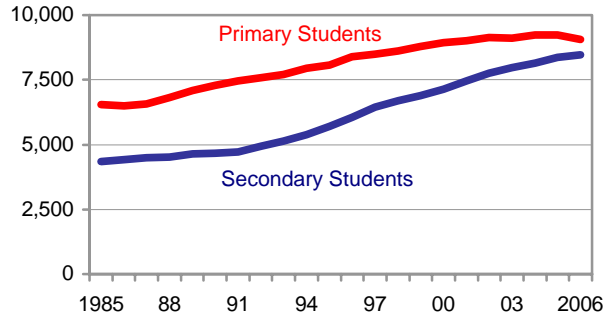
Graph 26: Broken Bay



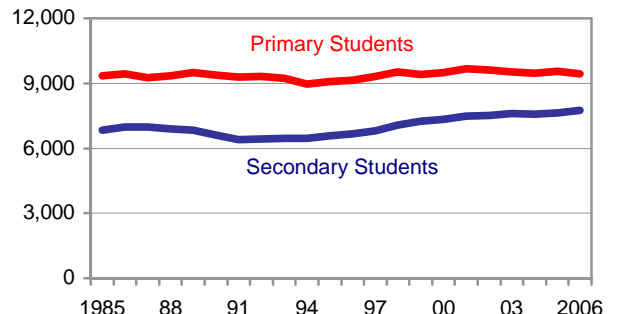
Graph 27: Canberra-Goulburn



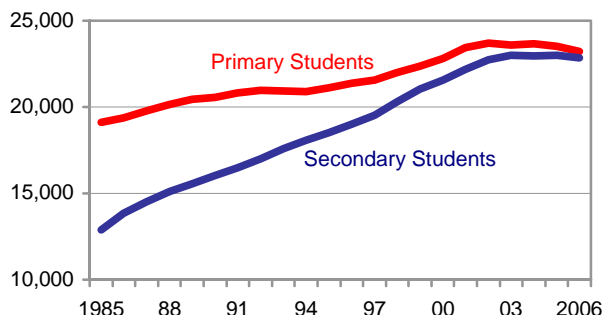
Graph 28: Lismore



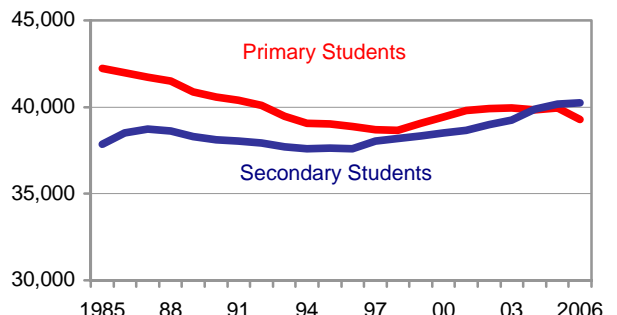
Graph 29: Maitland-Newcastle



Graph 30: Parramatta

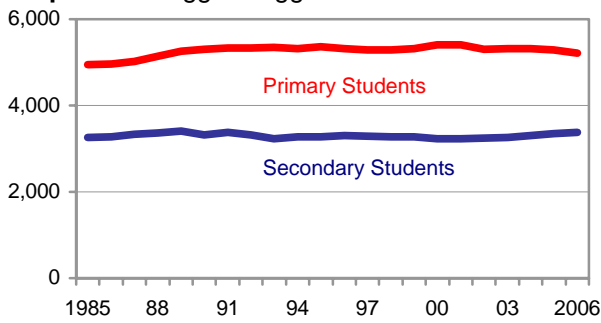


Graph 31: Sydney

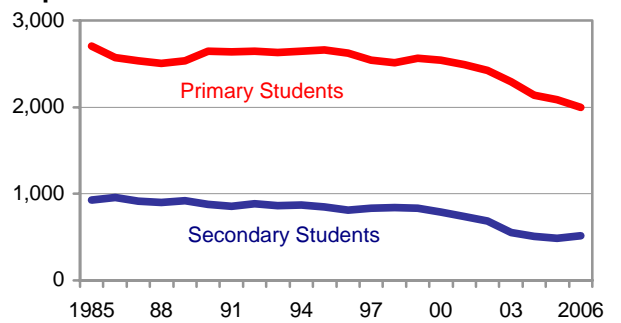


Graphs 24 to 51: Primary and Secondary Enrolments in Catholic schools, Individual Dioceses, 1985-2006

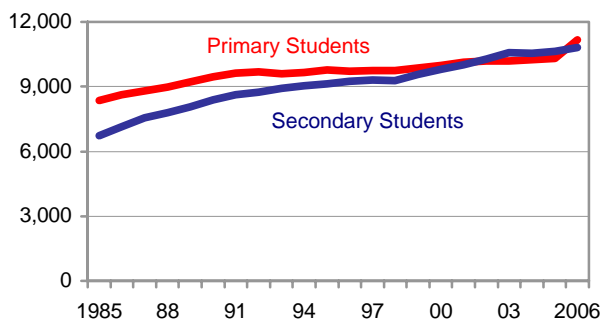
Graph 32: Wagga Wagga



Graph 33: Wilcannia-Forbes

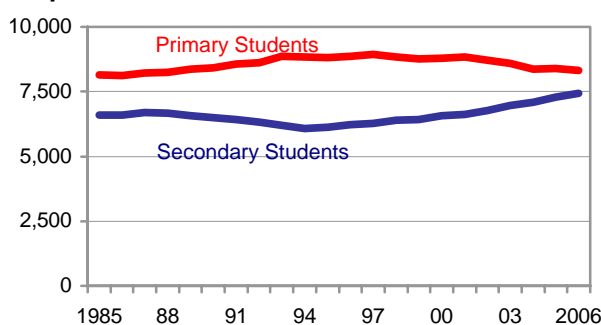


Graph 34: Wollongong

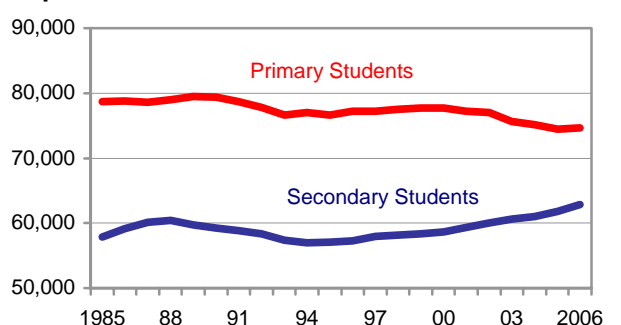


Victoria

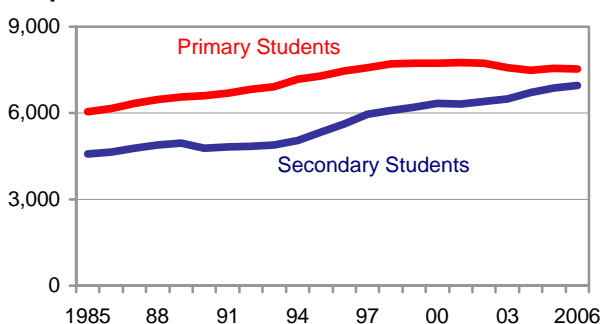
Graph 35: Ballarat



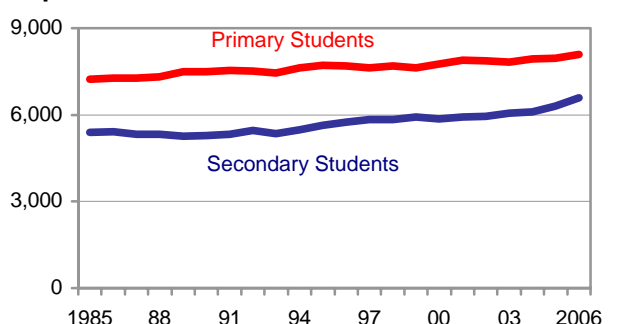
Graph 36: Melbourne



Graph 37: Sale



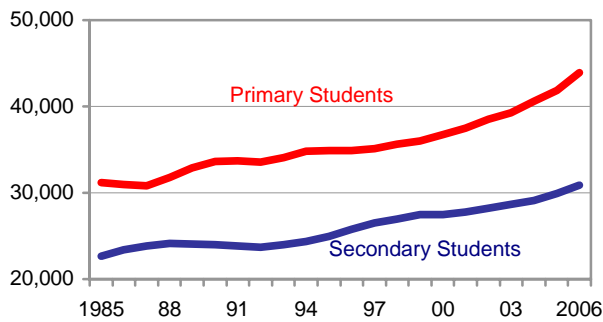
Graph 38: Sandhurst



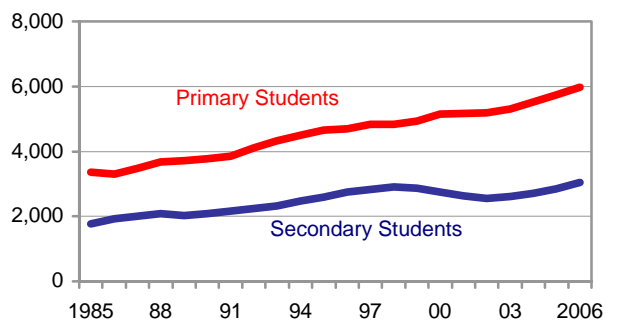
Graphs 24 to 51: Primary and Secondary Enrolments in Catholic schools, Individual Dioceses, 1985-2006

Queensland

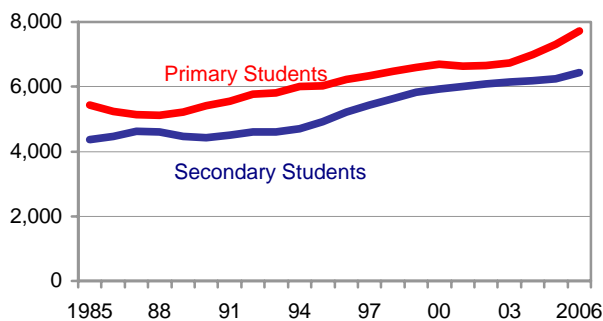
Graph 39: Brisbane



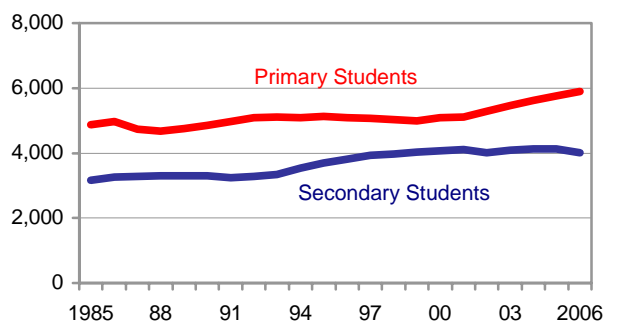
Graph 40: Cairns



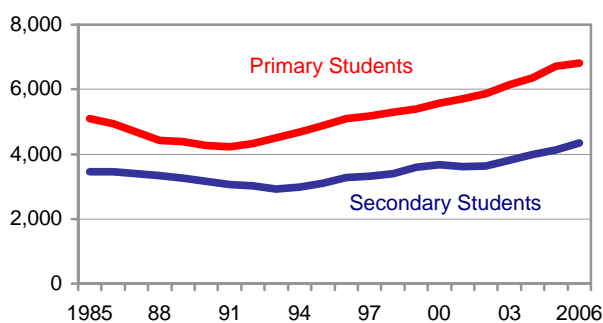
Graph 41: Rockhampton



Graph 42: Toowoomba

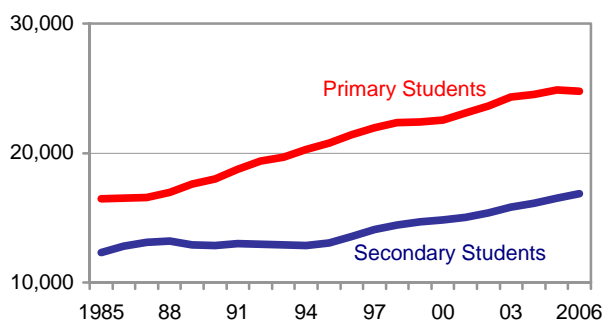


Graph 43: Townsville

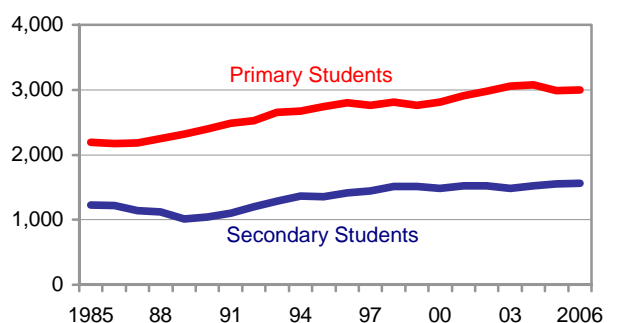


South Australia

Graph 44: Adelaide



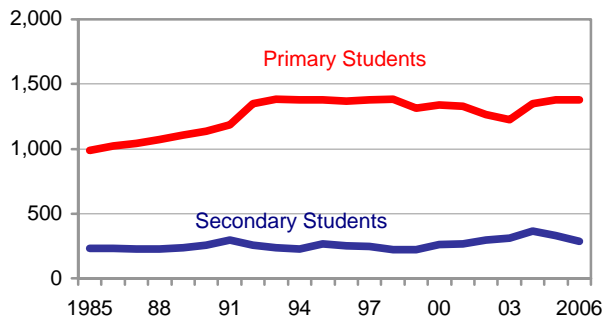
Graph 45: Port Pirie



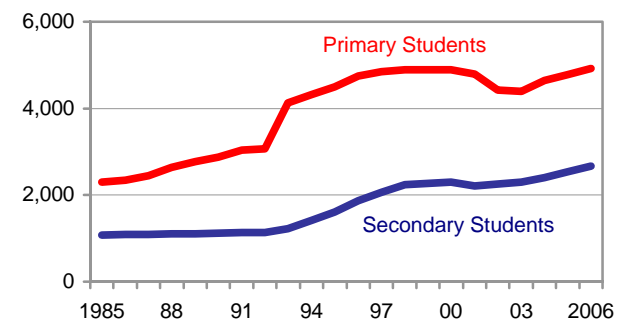
Graphs 24 to 51: Primary and Secondary Enrolments in Catholic schools, Individual Dioceses, 1985-2006

Western Australia

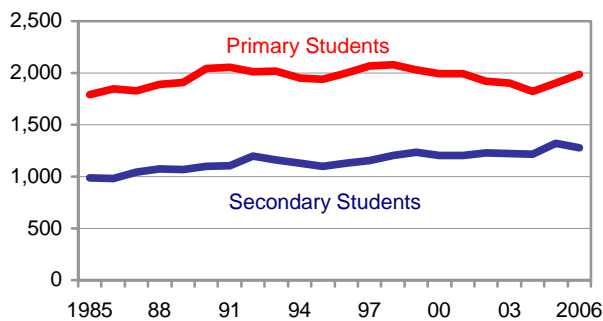
Graph 46: Broome



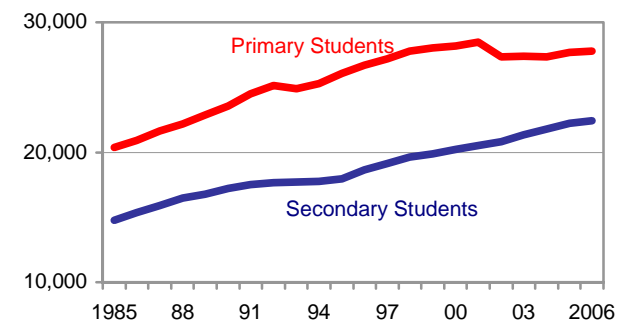
Graph 47: Bunbury



Graph 48: Geraldton

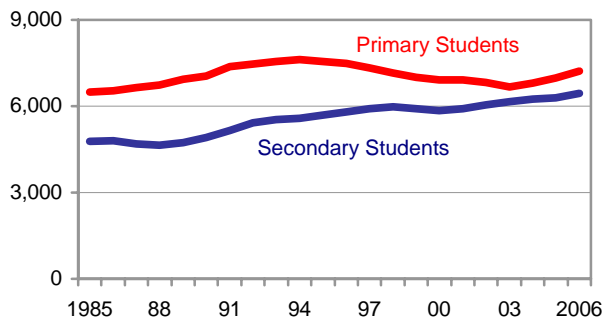


Graph 49: Perth



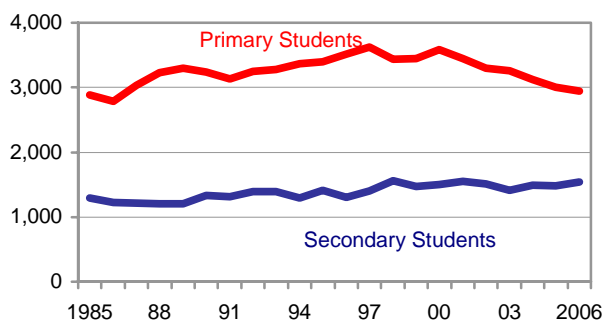
Tasmania

Graph 50: Hobart



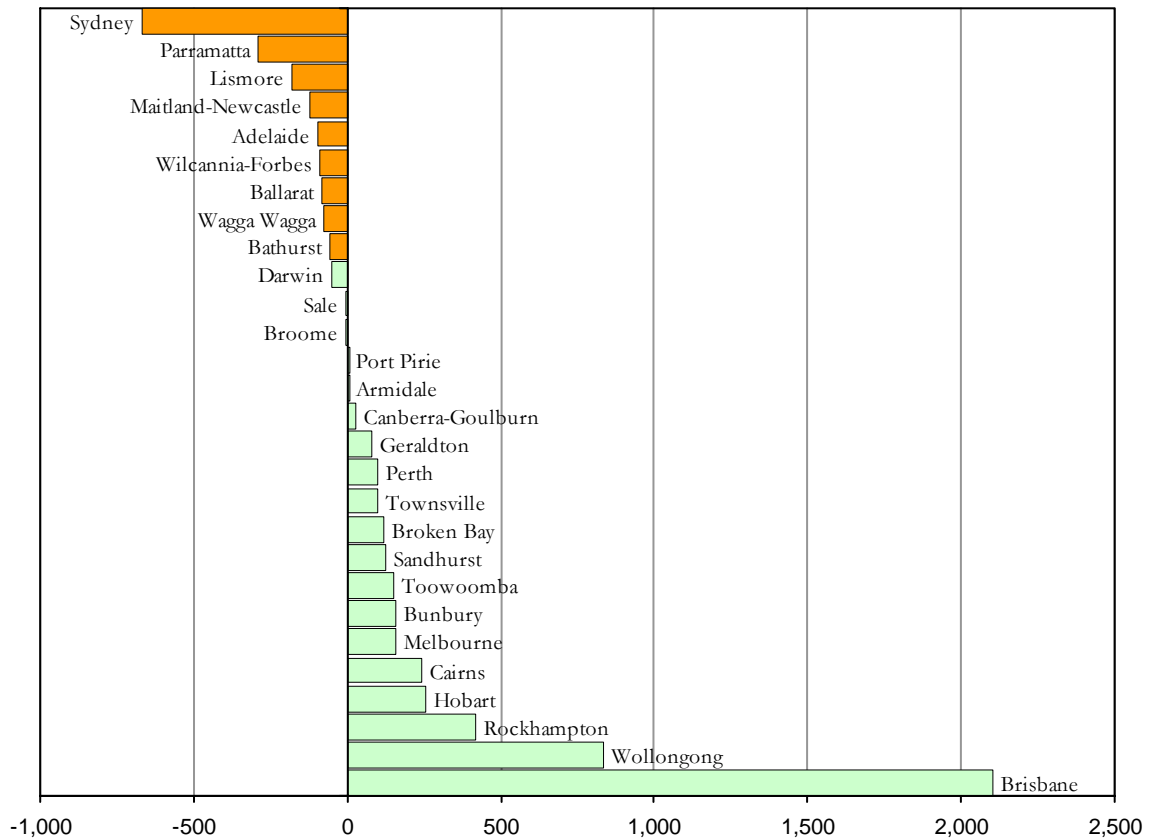
Northern Territory

Graph 51: Hobart



Graphs 52 and 53 and **Table 12** shows the change in primary and secondary enrolments in each of the dioceses from 2005 to 2006. As noted earlier, the change in Queensland dioceses included the introduction of pre-year 1, or 'Prep Year'.

Graph 52: Changes in Primary enrolments, by Diocese, 2005 to 2006



Graph 53: Changes in Secondary enrolments, by Diocese, 2005 to 2006

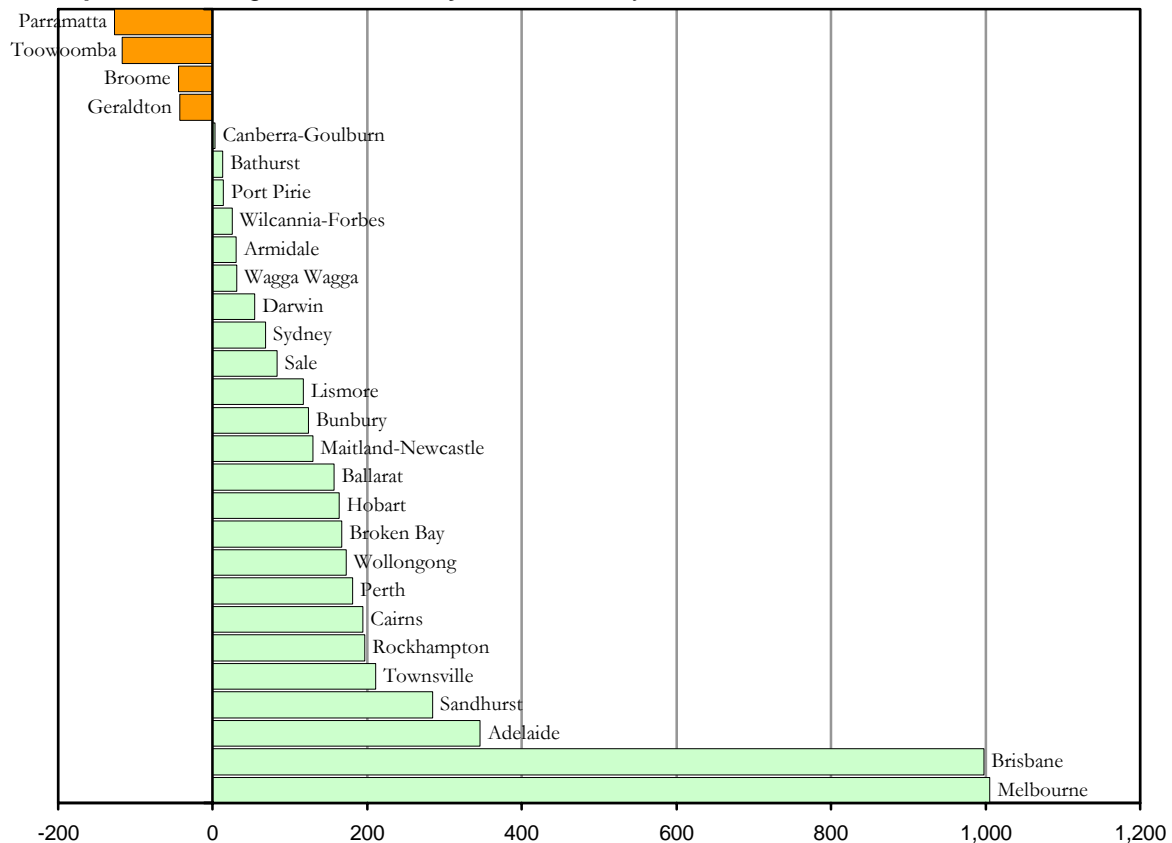


Table 12: Changes in Primary and Secondary enrolments by Diocese, 2005-2006

State	Diocese	Primary		Secondary		All Students	
		2006	Change from 2005	2006	Change from 2005	2006	Change from 2005
ACT and NSW	Armidale	3,955	7	1,977	30	5,932	37
	Bathurst	5,698	-57	4,061	13	9,759	-44
	Broken Bay	11,224	122	11,479	167	22,703	288
	Canberra-Goulburn	13,384	27	11,430	3	24,814	30
	Lismore	9,056	-178	8,480	117	17,536	-61
	Maitland-Newcastle	9,441	-120	7,759	130	17,200	10
	Parramatta	23,228	-291	22,855	-127	46,083	-418
	Sydney	39,291	-667	40,228	68	79,518	-600
	Wagga Wagga	5,213	-79	3,383	31	8,596	-47
	Wilcannia-Forbes	1,998	-90	514	25	2,512	-65
	Wollongong	11,156	834	10,803	173	21,959	1,008
NT	Darwin	2,948	-52	1,536	54	4,484	1
Queensland	Brisbane	43,952	2,106	30,915	998	74,866	3,103
	Cairns	5,977	241	3,051	194	9,027	434
	Rockhampton	7,729	417	6,431	197	14,160	614
	Toowoomba	5,905	150	4,015	-117	9,920	33
	Townsville	6,813	101	4,341	211	11,154	312
South Australia	Adelaide	24,787	-95	16,887	346	41,674	251
	Port Pirie	2,994	7	1,563	14	4,556	20
Tasmania	Hobart	7,226	255	6,455	164	13,681	420
Victoria	Ballarat	8,310	-80	7,444	157	15,754	77
	Melbourne	74,644	159	62,832	1,005	137,476	1,165
	Sale	7,542	-6	6,950	83	14,492	77
	Sandhurst	8,093	124	6,588	285	14,681	408
Western Australia	Broome	1,376	-2	286	-44	1,662	-46
	Bunbury	4,931	157	2,662	124	7,593	281
	Geraldton	1,985	81	1,279	-43	3,264	38
	Perth	27,789	100	22,422	181	50,211	280
National Total		378,651	3,171	310,632	4,439	687,273	7,606

Student Retention

Table 13 shows the Apparent Retention Rates from Catholic primary schools to Catholic secondary schools, and also the post-compulsory retention for each diocese. Retention from primary to secondary in NSW, ACT, Victorian and Tasmanian dioceses is the retention from Grade 6 in 2004 to Grade 7 in 2005. In South Australian, Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australian dioceses, the retention is from Grade 7 in 2004 to Grade 8 in 2005. Post-Compulsory Retention is the retention from Year 10 in 2003 to Year 12 in 2005.

Table 13: Apparent Retention Rates: Catholic Primary to Catholic Secondary schools; and Post-Compulsory Retention, by Diocese, 2006

State	Diocese	Primary to Secondary		Post-Compulsory	
		Boys	Girls	Males	Females
ACT and NSW	Armidale	71.0	73.5	55.3	54.0
	Bathurst	94.5	106.3	61.4	57.8
	Broken Bay	118.6	166.7	73.5	80.4
	Canberra-Goulburn	103.6	122.4	70.6	68.3
	Lismore	106.1	113.5	66.2	75.0
	Maitland-Newcastle	112.3	107.2	61.4	83.0
	Parramatta	137.5	130.5	72.2	82.9
	Sydney	128.5	120.7	82.1	86.4
	Wagga Wagga	92.9	86.2	59.2	71.1
	Wilcannia-Forbes	42.1	29.0	—	—
Wollongong	129.5	130.1	64.2	79.6	
NT	Darwin	118.8	110.4	32.3	35.6
Queensland	Brisbane	119.7	121.2	81.5	85.9
	Cairns	97.4	103.1	69.0	88.8
	Rockhampton	143.8	159.1	71.3	84.8
	Toowoomba	104.4	121.9	67.0	84.9
	Townsville	116.1	119.7	75.3	77.7
South Australia	Adelaide	114.3	112.5	76.4	86.2
	Port Pirie	97.7	106.7	47.2	98.1
Tasmania	Hobart	115.9	106.5	46.6	67.3
Victoria	Ballarat	116.1	115.6	63.3	78.0
	Melbourne	101.7	109.9	78.6	89.2
	Sale	115.3	117.0	63.7	71.8
	Sandhurst	107.6	113.9	62.8	77.7
Western Australia	Broome	37.9	58.9	46.4	30.6
	Bunbury	79.3	98.8	60.6	81.6
	Geraldton	161.7	130.3	42.4	69.7
	Perth	136.0	125.7	75.0	81.7
National Total		115.4	118.8	73.2	82.3

Note that the Post-Compulsory Apparent Retention Rates for Wilcannia-Forbes has been excluded as the data refers to one school only.

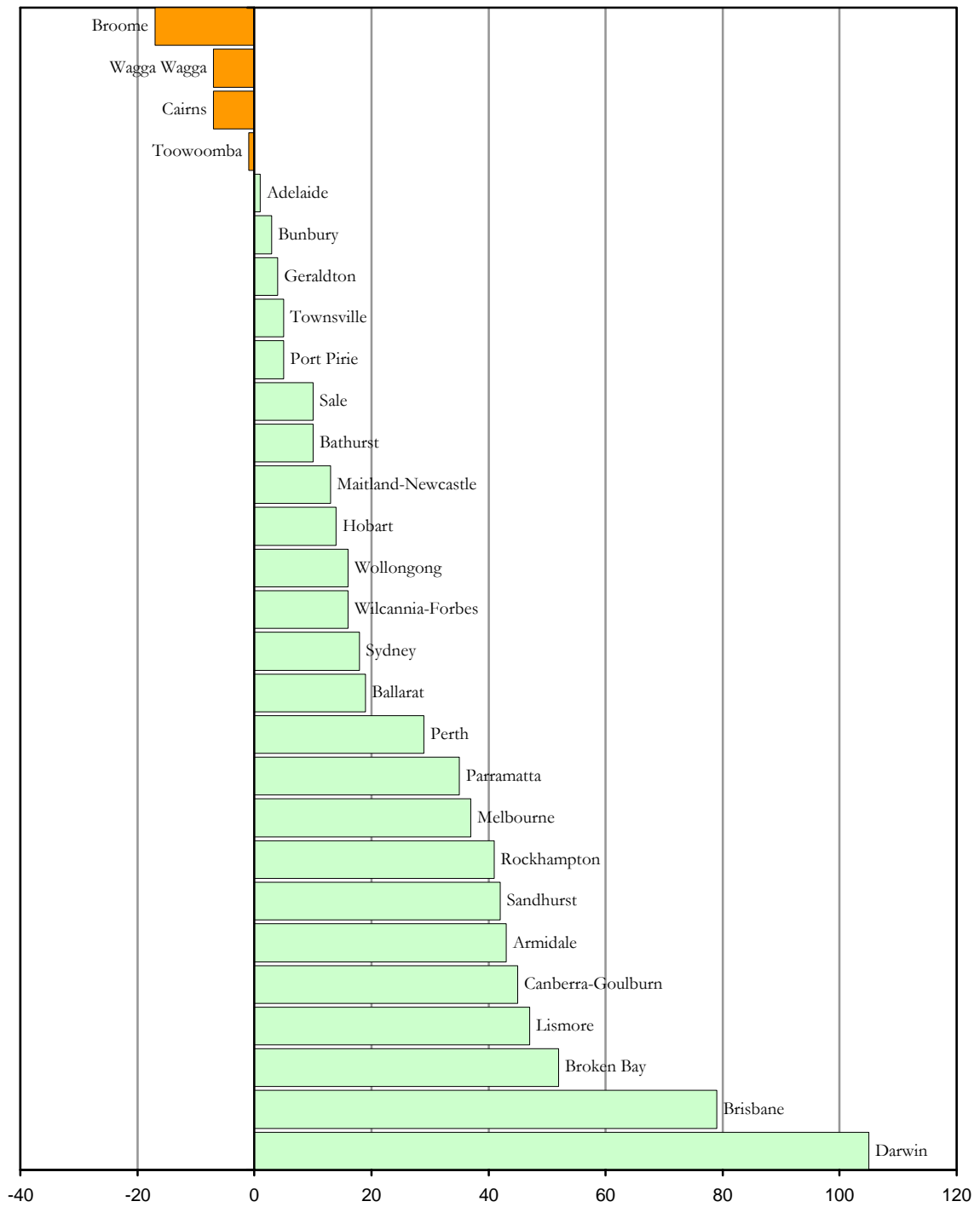
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students

Table 14 identifies the number Indigenous students in Catholic schools, as well as identifies the number of Indigenous students as a proportion of all students in Catholic schools in each diocese in 1985 and 2006. **Graph 54** shows the change from 2005 to 2006 for Indigenous students enrolled in Catholic schools.

Table 14: Number and percentage of students identified as ATSI in Catholic schools, All Dioceses, 1985 and 2006

State	Diocese	1985		2006		Change from 1985 to 2006
		Number of students	% of Students	Number of students	% of Students	
ACT and NSW	Armidale	196	3.0%	451	7.6%	255
	Bathurst	71	0.8%	352	3.6%	281
	Broken Bay	25	0.1%	169	0.7%	144
	Canberra-Goulburn	69	0.3%	359	1.4%	290
	Lismore	211	1.9%	484	2.8%	273
	Maitland-Newcastle	54	0.3%	403	2.3%	349
	Parramatta	50	0.2%	416	0.9%	366
	Sydney	129	0.2%	458	0.6%	329
	Wagga Wagga	43	0.5%	165	1.9%	122
	Wilcannia-Forbes	161	4.4%	259	10.3%	98
	Wollongong	30	0.2%	261	1.2%	231
NT	Darwin	1,060	25.4%	1,402	31.3%	342
Queensland	Brisbane	275	0.5%	931	1.2%	656
	Cairns	311	6.1%	541	6.0%	230
	Rockhampton	213	2.2%	444	3.1%	231
	Toowoomba	128	1.6%	316	3.2%	188
	Townsville	473	5.5%	959	8.6%	486
South Australia	Adelaide	70	0.2%	338	0.8%	268
	Port Pirie	13	0.4%	79	1.7%	66
Tasmania	Hobart	131	1.2%	491	3.6%	360
Victoria	Ballarat	16	0.1%	146	0.9%	130
	Melbourne	51	0.0%	246	0.2%	195
	Sale	18	0.2%	88	0.6%	70
	Sandhurst	8	0.1%	194	1.3%	186
Western Australia	Broome	1,139	93.1%	1,215	73.1%	76
	Bunbury	19	0.6%	70	0.9%	51
	Geraldton	185	6.7%	211	6.5%	26
	Perth	274	0.8%	764	1.5%	490
National Total		7,408	0.9%	12,212	1.8%	6,789

Graph 54: Recent change in ATSI student enrolments in Catholic schools, All Dioceses, 2005-2006



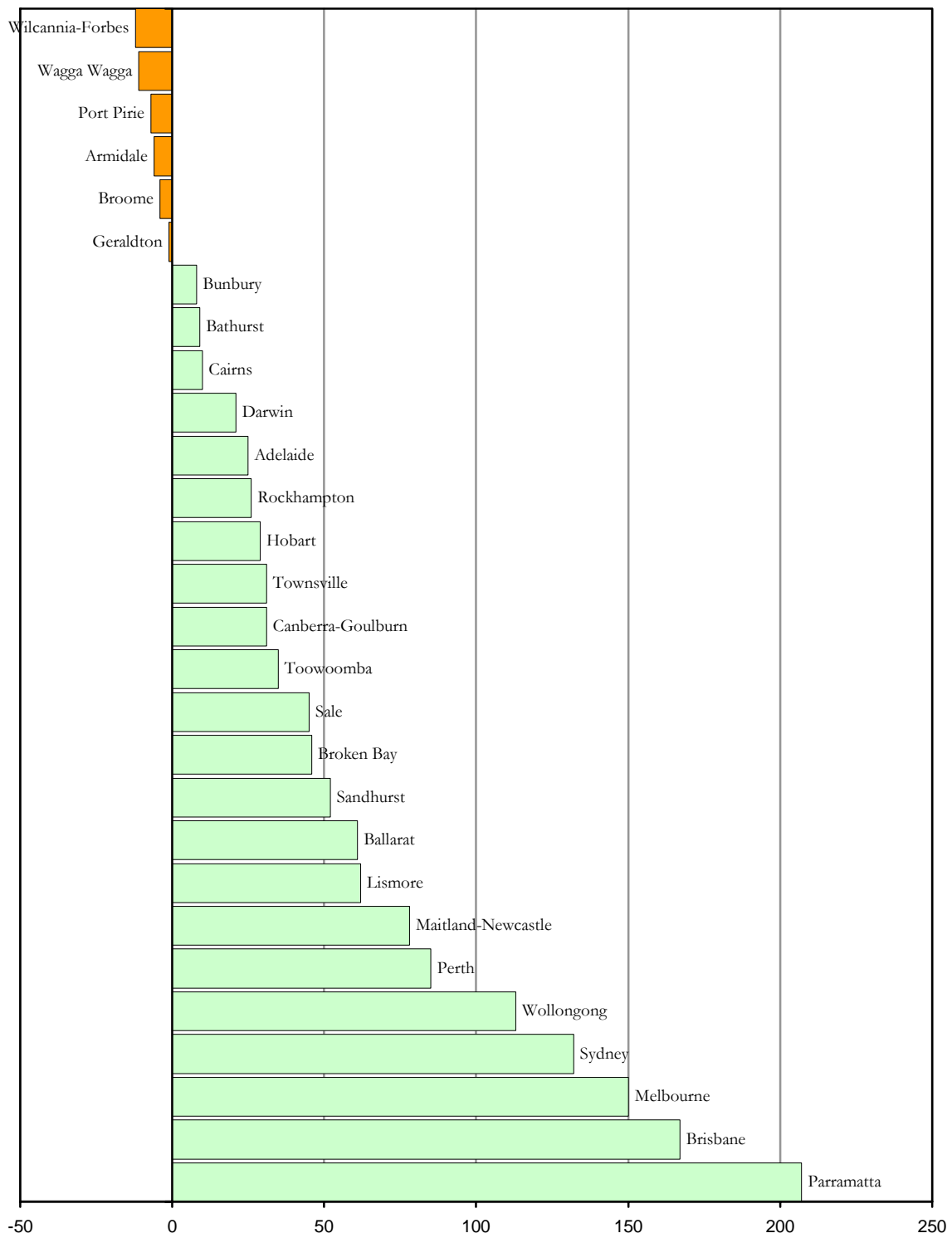
Students with a Disability

Table 15 identifies the number Indigenous students in Catholic schools, as well as identifies the number of Indigenous students as a proportion of all students in Catholic schools in each diocese in 1985 and 2006. **Graph 55** shows the change from 2005 to 2006 for Indigenous students enrolled in Catholic schools.

Table 15: Number and percentage of SWD students in Catholic schools, All Dioceses, 1985 and 2006

State	Diocese	1985		2006		Change from 1985 to 2006
		Number of students	% of Students	Number of students	% of Students	
ACT and NSW	Armidale	11	0.2%	202	3.4%	191
	Bathurst	10	0.1%	241	2.5%	231
	Broken Bay	32	0.1%	775	3.4%	743
	Canberra-Goulburn	115	0.5%	436	1.8%	321
	Lismore	1	0.0%	640	3.6%	639
	Maitland-Newcastle	16	0.1%	514	3.0%	498
	Parramatta	74	0.2%	1,704	3.7%	1,630
	Sydney	175	0.2%	3,417	4.3%	3,242
	Wagga Wagga	15	0.2%	243	2.8%	228
	Wilcannia-Forbes	2	0.1%	70	2.8%	68
	Wollongong	19	0.1%	818	3.7%	799
NT	Darwin	0	0.0%	118	2.6%	118
Queensland	Brisbane	141	0.3%	1,616	2.2%	1,475
	Cairns	7	0.1%	130	1.4%	123
	Rockhampton	10	0.1%	267	1.9%	257
	Toowoomba	6	0.1%	258	2.6%	252
	Townsville	13	0.2%	231	2.1%	218
South Australia	Adelaide	322	1.1%	1,293	3.1%	971
	Port Pirie	49	1.4%	100	2.2%	51
Tasmania	Hobart	12	0.1%	219	1.6%	207
Victoria	Ballarat	12	0.1%	580	3.7%	568
	Melbourne	244	0.2%	3,693	2.7%	3,449
	Sale	13	0.1%	432	3.0%	419
	Sandhurst	18	0.1%	438	3.0%	420
Western Australia	Broome	2	0.2%	27	1.6%	25
	Bunbury	4	0.1%	149	2.0%	145
	Geraldton	0	0.0%	61	1.9%	61
	Perth	69	0.2%	1,169	2.3%	1,100
National Total		1,392	0.2%	19,841	2.9%	18,449

Graph 55: Recent change in SWD student enrolments in Catholic schools, All Dioceses, 2005-2006



Full-Fee Paying Overseas Students

Table 16 shows the number of FFPOS students in each diocese in 2006, as well as identifying the number and proportion of FFPOS students enrolled in primary school.

Table 16: FFPOS Students, and proportion of FFPOS students in Primary schools, all Dioceses, 2006

State	Diocese	Primary FFPOS	Secondary FFPOS	Total FFPOS	Primary as % of FFPOS
ACT and NSW	Armidale	—	4	4	0%
	Bathurst	—	6	6	0%
	Broken Bay	37	206	243	15%
	Canberra-Goulburn	8	9	17	47%
	Lismore	2	2	4	50%
	Maitland-Newcastle	—	1	1	0%
	Parramatta	13	16	29	45%
	Sydney	103	262	365	28%
	Wagga Wagga	1	3	4	25%
	Wilcannia-Forbes	—	—	—	—
NT	Darwin	3	52	55	5%
Queensland	Brisbane	68	267	335	20%
	Cairns	11	17	28	39%
	Rockhampton	—	—	—	—
	Toowoomba	2	32	34	6%
	Townsville	1	13	14	7%
South Australia	Adelaide	14	327	341	4%
	Port Pirie	—	2	2	0%
Tasmania	Hobart	1	1	2	50%
Victoria	Ballarat	—	5	5	0%
	Melbourne	48	210	258	19%
	Sale	—	2	2	0%
	Sandhurst	—	2	2	0%
Western Australia	Broome	3	—	3	100%
	Bunbury	—	6	6	0%
	Geraldton	—	—	—	—
	Perth	48	133	181	27%
National Total		364	1,745	2,109	17%

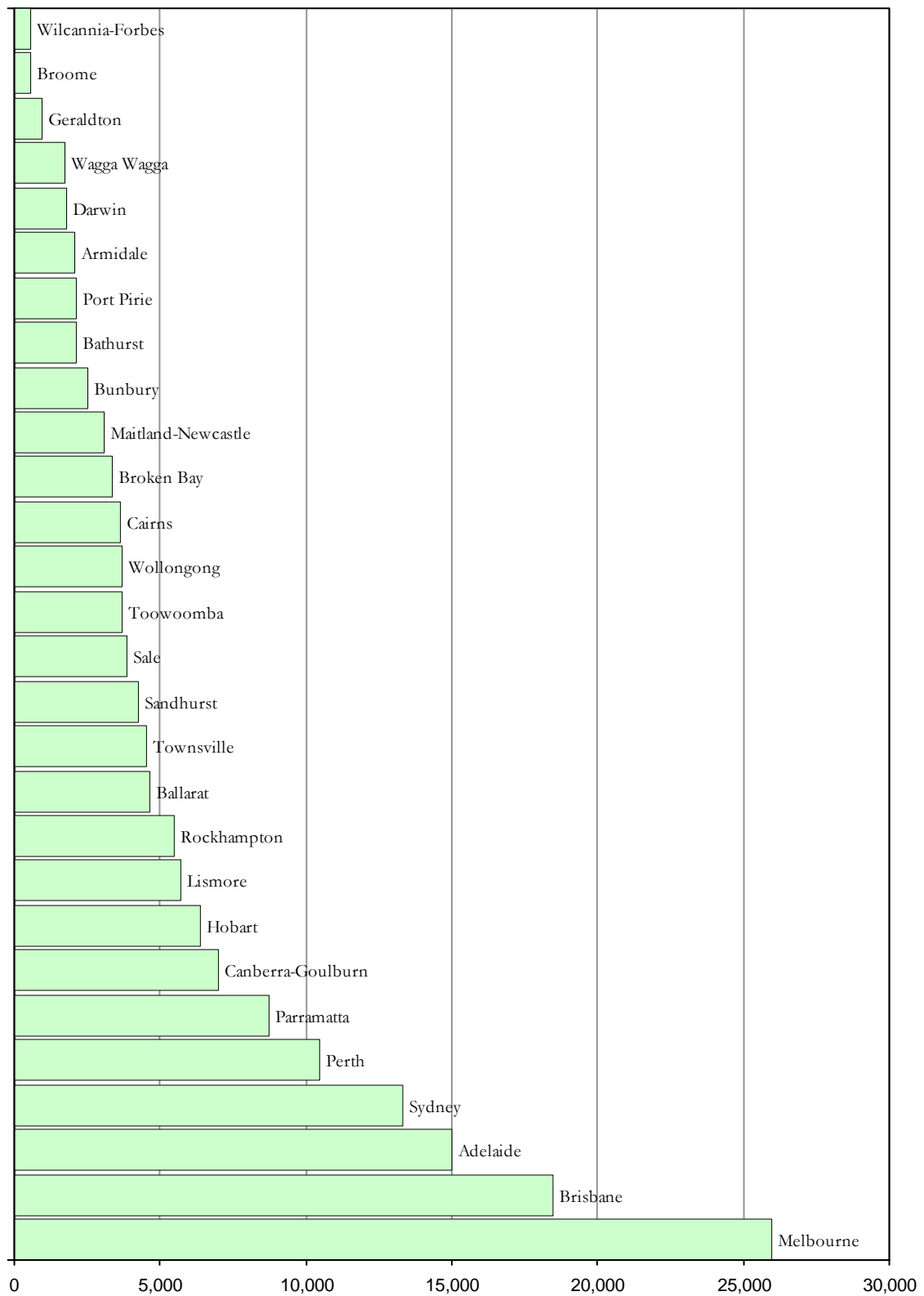
Non-Catholic Students

Table 17 shows the number and proportion of non-Catholic and Catholic students in each diocese in 2006. **Graph 56** shows the number of non-Catholic enrolments in each diocese.

Table 17: Non-Catholic and Catholic enrolments, all Dioceses, 2006

State	Diocese	Non-Catholic Students		Catholic students	
		No. of Students	% of Students	No. of Students	% of Students
ACT and NSW	Armidale	2,058	35%	3,870	65%
	Bathurst	2,144	22%	7,614	78%
	Broken Bay	3,337	15%	19,366	85%
	Canberra-Goulburn	7,014	28%	17,791	72%
	Lismore	5,697	32%	11,855	68%
	Maitland-Newcastle	3,092	18%	14,082	82%
	Parramatta	8,736	19%	37,707	81%
	Sydney	13,312	17%	66,740	83%
	Wagga Wagga	1,761	20%	6,832	80%
	Wilcannia-Forbes	552	22%	1,960	78%
Wollongong	3,689	18%	17,356	82%	
NT	Darwin	1,819	40%	2,711	60%
Queensland	Brisbane	18,456	25%	56,623	75%
	Cairns	3,645	40%	5,548	60%
	Rockhampton	5,463	38%	8,957	62%
	Toowoomba	3,698	37%	6,306	63%
	Townsville	4,557	40%	6,742	60%
South Australia	Adelaide	15,008	36%	27,029	64%
	Port Pirie	2,108	45%	2,541	55%
Tasmania	Hobart	6,384	43%	8,460	57%
Victoria	Ballarat	4,658	29%	11,148	71%
	Melbourne	25,961	19%	109,858	81%
	Sale	3,846	26%	10,792	74%
	Sandhurst	4,242	29%	10,394	71%
Western Australia	Broome	563	33%	1,137	67%
	Bunbury	2,526	33%	5,067	67%
	Geraldton	947	29%	2,328	71%
	Perth	10,445	21%	40,110	79%
National Total		165,718	24%	520,924	76%

Graph 56: Non-Catholic Enrolments, All Dioceses, 2006



Previous Reports from the Working Group

Annual Enrolment Trends

- 1. Report of the Working Party on Catholic School Enrolment Trends, 1985-2010** (September 2001)
Includes enrolment trends in Catholic schools 1985-2000 and examined the policy issues of: What schools do children of Catholic families attend?; Who attends Catholic schools in terms of religion?; Who attends Catholic schools in terms of family income?; and What schools do Catholic school-age children attend in terms of income? (1996 ABS Census).
- 2. Catholic School Enrolment Trends, 2003** (June 2004)
Includes enrolment trends 2000-2003, school size, and examines the policy issues in *Enrolment trends 1985-2010* (2001 ABS Census). Also explored the policy issues of: Single-parent families in Catholic schools; Large families in Catholic schools; Indigenous students (2001 ABS Census); and Catholic schools and the Socio-Economic Status Index.
- 3. Catholic School Enrolment Trends, 2004** (February 2005)
Enrolment trends 2004 and 1985-2004.
- 4. Catholic School Enrolment Trends, 2005** (February 2006)
Enrolment trends 2004 and 1985-2005. Updated to include Diocesan Supplement.

Specific Topics

- 1. Indigenous Student Trends in Catholic Schools 1985-2004** (June 2005)
Examined the Australian Indigenous Population, Indigenous Enrolments in Catholic Schools (2004 Snapshot); Indigenous Student Trends in Catholic Schools, 1985-2004. Also examined the “Our Fair Share” issues of: Is the proportion of Indigenous students in Catholic schools representative of the broader Indigenous community?, What proportion of the Indigenous students are in Catholic and non-Catholic schools?, hat proportion of Catholic Indigenous students are in Catholic schools?, and How does the increase in Indigenous student enrolments compare to the increase in Students with Disabilities (the only other specific funding targeted student group) in Catholic schools? Also reported on the issues and implications of the findings of this report.

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