

# Building social capital

## Snapshot of independent education in Australia<sup>1</sup>

In Australia there are **612,462 students** in **1,137 schools**



**1 in 3** independent schools are in regional/remote areas



**80,693** staff



**1.1 million** parents/guardians of independent school students



**90%** are coeducational

Of the single sex schools most are girls' schools (58%) compared to boys' (42%)

### State breakdown

	Students	Staff*	Schools
NSW	203,848	26,427	399
VIC	143,668	20,210	216
QLD	120,947	15,479	206
WA	65,948	8,856	145
SA	48,827	5,785	103
TAS	9,382	1,418	31
ACT	13,716	1,666	18
NT	6,127	852	19

\*Includes teaching and non-teaching staff

## What is social capital?

Social capital represents the **shared values** within a community that enable its individuals to **trust each other** and as a result **work together** more effectively.<sup>2</sup> Social capital is the glue which **holds our communities together**, facilitating **co-operation, exchange and innovation**.<sup>3</sup>

## Values of independent education

Principals believe that independent school values are important for all of Australian society



Nearly all independent school principals (97%) are personally motivated to increase the social impact of their school.

### Independent school principals strongly agree that:



Promotion of and modelling of the school's ethos and values is an important way students learn about how successful communities function (90%)



Student engagement within the community through service and fundraising efforts is an important way schools develop 'bridging' social capital (86%)



Students' agreement and adherence to school values or guidelines is an important way to learn how to be part of a community (82%)

**Methodology:** Research and visualisation by McCrindle — [mccrindle.com.au](http://mccrindle.com.au). Survey of 101 independent school principals in Australia, August 2019. Independent schools data from ACARA Schools Profile 2018.

1. ACARA, 2019, Schools profile  
2. Keeley B., 2007, Human Capital: How what you know shapes your life, OECD  
3. OECD, 2001, The New Economy: Beyond the Hype.

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## Measuring the benefit of independent education

### Creating cohesive communities

Independent schools are a hub of community connection for many Australians. These communities are created and supported by independent schools which connect individuals, families and communities across the country.



One in ten Australians (2.8 million) are impacted by independent school community engagement

#### Three most common forms of community engagement:



### Inter-school collaboration

As Australian communities continue to grow and change, the independent sector is enhancing social cohesion by modelling values based on inclusivity and collaboration.



Many independent schools see collaboration as the key to success with nearly three in five schools (58%) sharing their resources with others.

#### Top forms of inter-school collaboration



### Serving Australian society

Many independent schools recognise the value of students being active members of society, encouraging students to connect with their local communities and celebrating their efforts (96%).



450 students per school participate in service-learning

511,650 nationally



community of 100 people



2 independent students serving

In every community of 100 people in Australia, there are an average of two independent students actively serving the community.

### Empowering civic engagement

Student leadership is an important element of social cohesion.

#### Top forms of student leadership:

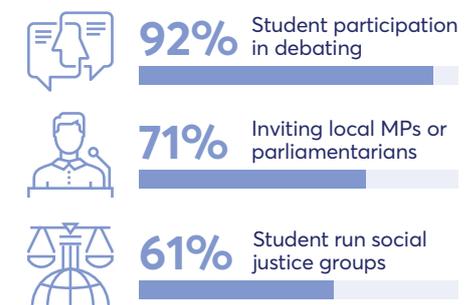


150 students in student leadership per school

171,000 nationally

Independent school students are also encouraged to be actively involved in civics.

#### Most common forms of civic engagement:



### Champions of diversity

Australia is an increasingly diverse nation, with growing cultural diversity. This is a significant demographic mega-trend shaping modern society.



3 in 10 Australians are born overseas (29%)



1 in 5 Australians speak a language other than English (21%)



Three in five independent schools (61%) actively collaborate with schools that have a different faith background to their own.

#### Independent schools acknowledge diversity by:

