

Schools: InBrief Mid-Year Census 2015

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

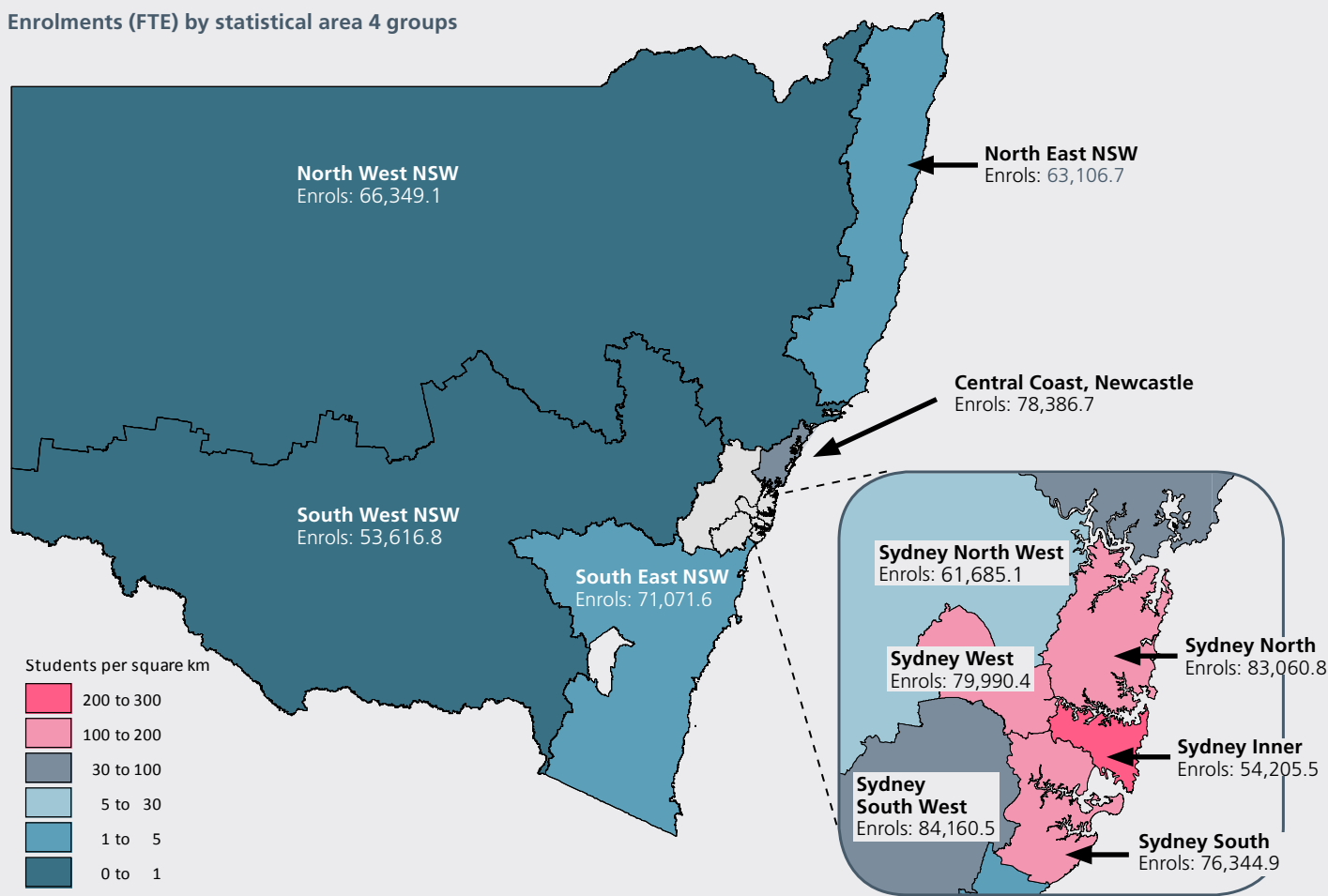
InBrief summarises the results of the census of students in NSW government schools undertaken on Friday 7 August 2015, and the census of NSW non-government schools undertaken by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training on the same day.

Mid-year Census

The Mid-year Census includes data on NSW Government schools (preschool, primary, secondary, central/community and special) and students (age at 1 July, grades, full time, part time, gender, and Aboriginality).

Map 1

Enrolments (FTE) by statistical area 4 groups



2015 InBrief summary

NSW government

Full-time equivalent (FTE) enrolments

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Primary enrolments | 465,767.0 |
| Secondary enrolments | 300,871.1 |
| SSP enrolments | 5,340.0 |
| Total enrolments | 771,978.1 |

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

| | |
|--|----------|
| Total Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander enrolments | 54,150.4 |
| Percent Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander enrolments | 7.0% |

Part-time students

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Number of part-time students | 2,220.0 |
| FTE enrolments | 1,404.1 |

NSW non-government

Full-time equivalent (FTE) enrolments

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Primary enrolments | 202,917.8 |
| Secondary enrolments | 206,709.4 |
| Total enrolments | 409,627.2 |

Preschool Students

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Number of preschool students | 4,278.0 |
| FTE enrolments | 2,306.6 |

NSW government schools

| | |
|--|-------|
| Primary and Infants Schools | 1,606 |
| Central/community schools | 66 |
| Secondary schools | 401 |
| Schools for specific purposes (SSPs) | 113 |
| Environmental education centres (EECs) | 23 |

Total government schools

| | |
|--|----|
| Preschools attached to primary/infants schools | 99 |
| Separate preschools | 1 |

Total preschools

| | |
|--|------------|
| | 100 |
|--|------------|

NSW non-government schools

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Primary schools | 494 |
| Secondary schools | 143 |
| Primary/secondary Schools | 239 |
| Special schools | 52 |

Total non-government schools

| | |
|--|------------|
| | 928 |
|--|------------|

Enrolments (FTE) by ABS statistical area

Table 1 presents enrolment data using a geographical structure based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). This is illustrated in Map 1. The ASGS is maintained by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and allows comparison of

education statistics with other statistical data. ASGS Statistical Area 4 (SA4) boundaries in New South Wales have been combined into 11 groups for reporting and publication of Department data.

Table 1

Enrolments (FTE) by ABS statistical area 4 groupings and grade groups in NSW government schools, mid-year 2015

| Statistical Area 4 Grouping | K-2 | Yr3-6 | Primary Total | Yr7-10 | Yr11-12 | Secondary Total | SSP | Statistical Area Total | % of NSW |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Sydney-North | 25,421 | 28,975 | 54,396 | 19,012 | 9,213.8 | 28,225.8 | 439 | 83,060.8 | 10.8% |
| Sydney-Inner | 16,371 | 17,304 | 33,675 | 13,701 | 6,500.5 | 20,201.5 | 329 | 54,205.5 | 7.0% |
| Sydney-South | 20,464 | 25,254 | 45,718 | 20,854 | 9,048.9 | 29,902.9 | 724 | 76,344.9 | 9.9% |
| Sydney-South West | 20,860 | 28,022 | 48,882 | 24,601 | 10,007.5 | 34,608.5 | 670 | 84,160.5 | 10.9% |
| Sydney-West | 23,661 | 27,790 | 51,451 | 19,410 | 8,134.4 | 27,544.4 | 995 | 79,990.4 | 10.4% |
| Sydney-North West | 16,196 | 20,692 | 36,888 | 17,138 | 7,356.1 | 24,494.1 | 303 | 61,685.1 | 8.0% |
| Sydney Total | 122,973 | 148,037 | 271,010 | 114,716 | 50,261.2 | 164,977.2 | 3,460 | 439,447.2 | 56.9% |
| North East NSW | 15,578 | 20,659 | 36,237 | 19,137 | 7,604.7 | 26,741.7 | 128 | 63,106.7 | 8.2% |
| North West NSW | 17,475 | 22,282 | 39,757 | 19,632 | 6,731.1 | 26,363.1 | 229 | 66,349.1 | 8.6% |
| South West NSW | 13,621 | 17,831 | 31,452 | 15,745 | 5,898.8 | 21,643.8 | 521 | 53,616.8 | 6.9% |
| South East NSW | 18,400 | 24,138 | 42,538 | 20,356 | 7,784.6 | 28,140.6 | 393 | 71,071.6 | 9.2% |
| Central Coast, Newcastle | 19,473 | 25,300 | 44,773 | 23,830 | 9,174.7 | 33,004.7 | 609 | 78,386.7 | 10.2% |
| Regional Total | 84,547 | 110,210 | 194,757 | 98,700 | 37,193.9 | 135,893.9 | 1,880 | 332,530.9 | 43.1% |
| NSW | 207,520 | 258,247 | 465,767 | 213,416 | 874,55.1 | 300,871.1 | 5,340 | 771,978.1 | 100.0% |

Notes:

- Students in Distance Education and Opportunity Classes (OC) are included with their appropriate grade levels.
- Aggregate geographical data are reported by groupings of ABS statistical area 4 (refer to the maps).
- Primary support students are included in Year 3 to 6. Secondary support students are included in Year 7 to 10.

In 2015, 56.9 per cent of government students were enrolled in schools within the Sydney area. The proportion of primary students enrolled in Sydney schools was a little higher at 58.2 per cent.

All statistical area groupings experienced an increase in primary enrolments in 2015. Sydney-West and Sydney-North recorded the largest growth in primary enrolments for the second year in a row, each with an increase of over 1,700 enrolments between 2014 and 2015.

For secondary enrolments only three statistical area groupings recorded a marked increase in enrolments. Sydney North rose by 1.5 per cent or 420 students following a rise of 1.0 per cent in 2014. Sydney-South and Sydney-South West increased

by 0.8 and 0.7 per cent respectively. All other statistical area groupings were stable or recorded a decline of between 0.3 and 2.9 per cent.

As Map 1 shows, the areas of Sydney-North and Sydney-South West have the highest number of enrolments, with 83,060.8 and 84,160.5 enrolments respectively.

Aboriginal enrolments (FTE)

Map 2 shows the percentage of students in each statistical area grouping who identify as Aboriginal. Over twenty per cent of students in North West NSW identify as Aboriginal, compared to less than five per cent in each statistical area grouping in Sydney.

Map 2

Percentage of enrolments (FTE) identified as Aboriginal by statistical area 4 groups

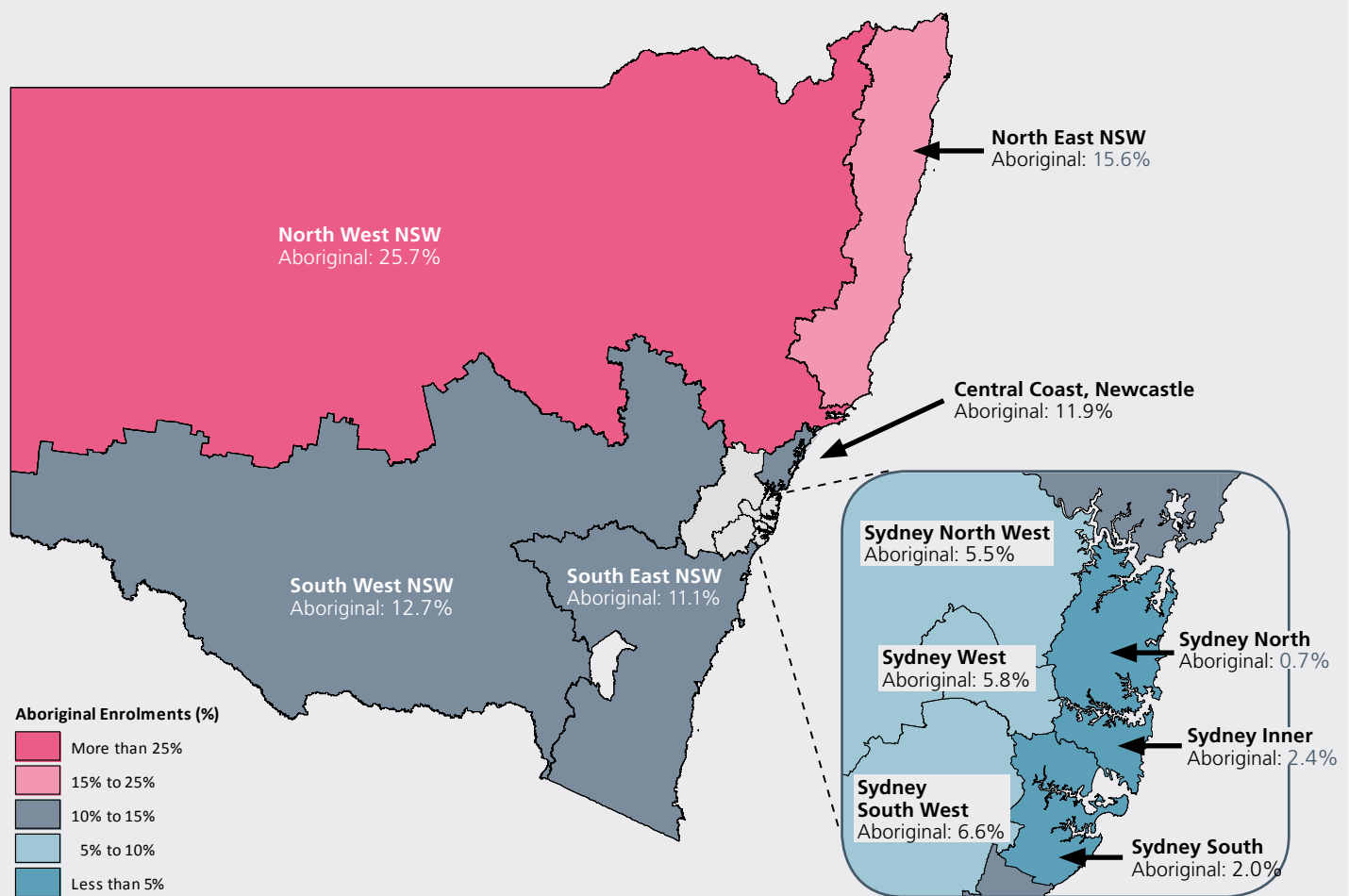


Table 2

Enrolments (FTE) of Aboriginal students by ABS statistical area 4 groupings and grade groups in NSW government schools, mid-year 2015

| Statistical Area 4 Grouping | K-2 | Yr3-6 | Primary Total | Yr7-10 | Yr11-12 | Secondary Total | Statistical Area Total | % of NSW |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Sydney-North | 102 | 123 | 225 | 118 | 37.8 | 155.8 | 396.8 | 0.7% |
| Sydney-Inner | 366 | 434 | 800 | 361 | 125.3 | 486.3 | 1,322.3 | 2.4% |
| Sydney-South | 288 | 358 | 646 | 319 | 105.4 | 424.4 | 1,100.4 | 2.0% |
| Sydney-South West | 933 | 1,275 | 2,208 | 1,018 | 261.6 | 1,279.6 | 3,576.6 | 6.6% |
| Sydney-West | 877 | 1,087 | 1,964 | 805 | 243.4 | 1,048.4 | 3,131.4 | 5.8% |
| Sydney-North West | 811 | 982 | 1,793 | 888 | 233.8 | 1,121.8 | 2,961.8 | 5.5% |
| Sydney Total | 3,377 | 4,259 | 7,636 | 3,509 | 1,007.3 | 4,516.3 | 12,489.3 | 23.1% |
| North East NSW | 2,222 | 2,841 | 5,063 | 2,598 | 740.3 | 3,338.3 | 8,453.3 | 15.6% |
| North West NSW | 3,852 | 4,679 | 8,531 | 4,178 | 1,087.4 | 5,265.4 | 13,895.4 | 25.7% |
| South West NSW | 1,881 | 2,269 | 4,150 | 2,133 | 500.7 | 2,633.7 | 6,883.7 | 12.7% |
| South East NSW | 1,571 | 2,065 | 3,636 | 1,806 | 503.9 | 2,309.9 | 5,990.9 | 11.1% |
| Central Coast, Newcastle | 1,649 | 2,117 | 3,766 | 1,998 | 557.8 | 2,555.8 | 6,437.8 | 11.9% |
| Regional Total | 11,175 | 13,971 | 25,146 | 12,713 | 3,390.1 | 16,103.1 | 41,661.1 | 76.9% |
| NSW | 14,552 | 18,230 | 32,782 | 16,222 | 4,397.4 | 20,619.4 | 54,150.4 | 100.0% |
| As % of grade group | 7.0% | 7.1% | 7.0% | 7.6% | 5.0% | 6.9% | 7.0% | |

Notes:

- Students in Distance Education and Opportunity Classes (OC) are included with their appropriate grade levels.
- Aggregate geographical data are reported by groupings of ABS statistical area 4 (refer to the maps).
- Primary support students are included in Year 3 to 6. Secondary support students are included in Year 7 to 10.
- The percentage of grade group compares Aboriginal enrolments with all enrolments including students at SSPs.
- There were 749 Aboriginal students enrolled in SSP's, representing 14% of total SSP enrolments.

Figure 1

Enrolments (FTE) of Aboriginal students by ABS statistical area 4 groupings and grade groups in NSW government schools, mid-year 2015

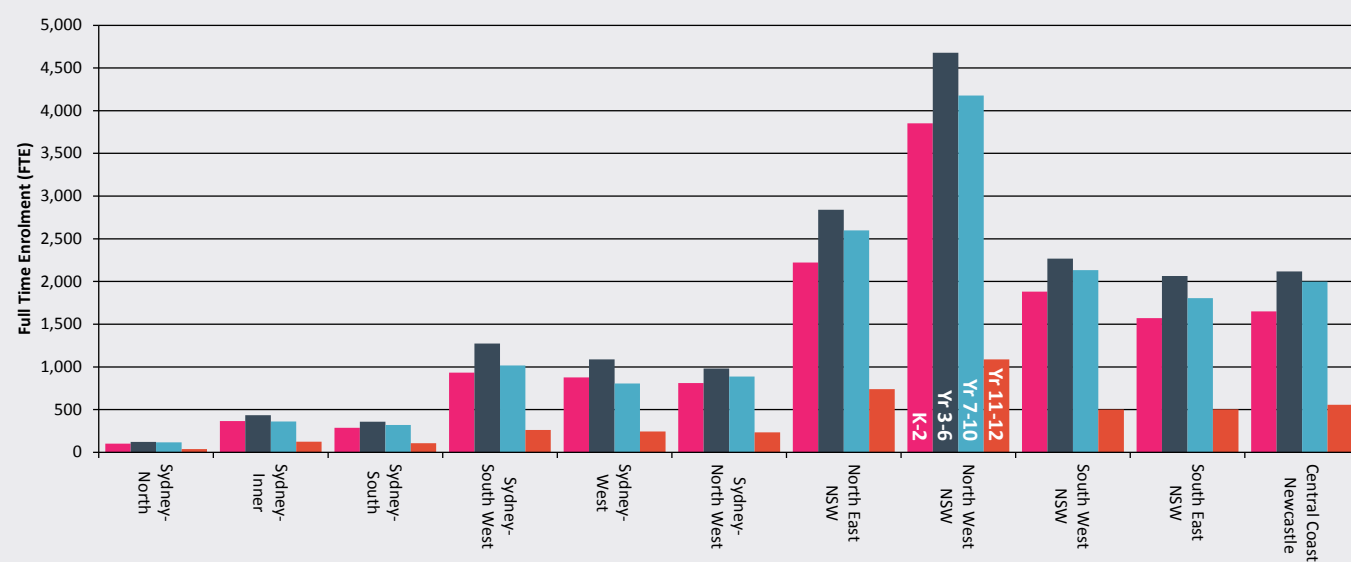


Table 2 shows enrolments of Aboriginal students by statistical area groupings and grade groups, and Figure 1 illustrates this comparison.

The majority (76.9 per cent) of Aboriginal students are enrolled outside of Sydney. Although the six Sydney statistical area groupings account for 56.9 per cent of all enrolments in NSW, only 23.1 per cent of NSW Aboriginal students are enrolled in Sydney.

North West NSW and North East NSW had the highest Aboriginal enrolments at 25.7 and 15.6 per cent respectively.

In Sydney, the statistical area groupings of Sydney-South West, Sydney-West and Sydney-North West had relatively higher Aboriginal students' enrolments, at 6.6 per cent, 5.8 and 5.5 per cent of total Aboriginal enrolments respectively. In contrast, Sydney North only had 0.7 per cent of Aboriginal enrolments, compared with 10.8 per cent of all students.

Overall, Aboriginal student enrolments have increased by 2,537.8 students or 4.9 per cent from 51,612.6 in 2014 to 54,150.4 in 2015. North West NSW recorded the largest increase of 647.5 students, from 13,247.9 in 2014 to 13,895.4 in 2015.

2015 enrolments (FTE)

Figure 2 shows government school enrolments as a proportion of 2001 total enrolments. From 2008 to 2014 enrolments in Years 11 and 12 rose, largely as a result of the raising of the school leaving age in 2010. However Year 11 and 12 enrolments declined a little in 2015 and now represent almost 110 per cent of 2001 enrolments.

Kindergarten to Year 2 enrolments have increased markedly since 2009 and now represent 108 per cent of 2001 enrolments. These additional enrolments are the result of demographic changes, with larger numbers of children born in NSW since 2005.

Year 3 to 6 enrolments declined from 2001 to 2007 and remained at around 95 per cent of 2001 enrolments until 2013. However enrolments have grown rapidly in the last two years and are expected to keep rising. This is caused by the increased birth rate from 2005, with Kindergarten to Year 2 children now moving into Years 3 to 6.

Year 7 to 10 enrolments rose a little from 2001 to 2006 and have since fallen to 96 per cent of 2001 enrolment. However the rate of decline from 2014 to 2015 was slower than in previous years.

The total number of full-time equivalent students in NSW government schools increased by 8,280.4 or 1.1 per cent, from 763,697.7 in 2014 to 771,978.1 in 2015. This is the seventh year in a row that government enrolments have increased after a sustained downward trend between 1998 and 2008. Primary enrolments increased by 9,616 in 2015 while secondary enrolments continued to decline, decreasing by 1,468.6 in 2015.

Enrolments in NSW government schools are affected by a number of factors, including the school age population, the participation rate and the enrolment share between government and non-government schools. For students of school age (5 to 17 inclusive), the participation rate is close to 100 per cent; however, after this age it declines noticeably.

Table 3

Enrolments (FTE) in NSW government schools, 1995-2015

| Year | Primary | Secondary | SSP | Total |
|-------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1995 | 446,722 | 305,395.6 | 3,789 | 755,906.6 |
| 1996 | 450,465 | 306,823.3 | 3,749 | 761,037.3 |
| 1997 | 451,560 | 308,922.7 | 3,690 | 764,172.7 |
| 1998 | 452,568 | 309,133.7 | 3,673 | 765,374.7 |
| 1999 | 453,454 | 308,116.1 | 3,762 | 765,332.1 |
| 2000 | 454,363 | 303,681.0 | 3,792 | 761,836.0 |
| 2001 | 451,093 | 301,774.4 | 3,873 | 756,740.4 |
| 2002 | 447,897 | 302,988.0 | 3,915 | 754,800.0 |
| 2003 | 443,213 | 304,034.0 | 3,938 | 751,185.0 |
| 2004 | 438,677 | 302,849.6 | 3,981 | 745,507.6 |
| 2005 | 434,876 | 302,578.3 | 4,124 | 741,578.3 |
| 2006 | 432,660 | 303,622.0 | 4,133 | 740,415.0 |
| 2007 | 429,900 | 304,457.7 | 4,278 | 738,635.7 |
| 2008 | 428,331 | 303,055.7 | 4,392 | 735,778.7 |
| 2009 | 429,000 | 303,180.7 | 4,466 | 736,646.7 |
| 2010 | 430,177 | 307,291.2 | 4,673 | 742,141.2 |
| 2011 | 433,873 | 306,893.2 | 4,774 | 745,540.2 |
| 2012 | 438,681 | 304,632.1 | 4,921 | 748,234.1 |
| 2013 | 446,848 | 303,433.6 | 5,064 | 755,345.6 |
| 2014 | 456,151 | 302,339.7 | 5,207 | 763,697.7 |
| 2015 | 465,767 | 300,871.1 | 5,340 | 771,978.1 |

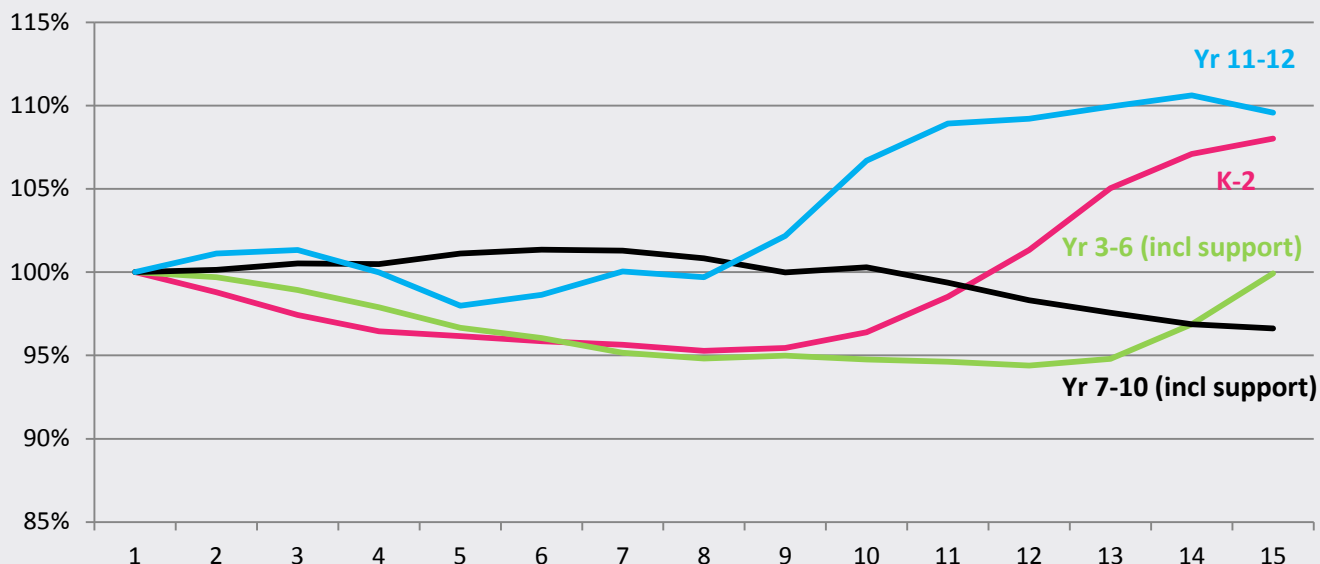
Note: Since 1993 some students have enrolled part-time. All enrolments are reported in full-time equivalent units (FTEs) and include full-time and part-time students.

Kindergarten enrolments increased by 715 students, or 1 per cent, in 2015. This increase reversed the small decline observed in 2014 and follows six years of increases from 2008 to 2013. Kindergarten enrolments generally reflect the NSW birth rate five years' previously.

The largest increases in enrolments were in Year 3 and Year 4. Year 3 enrolments rose by 4.4 per cent from 64,206 students in 2014 to 67,042 in 2015, while Year 4 enrolments rose by 4.7 per cent from 61,309 students in 2014 to 64,171 in 2015. This is due to the progression of large numbers of Kindergarten students enrolled in 2011 and 2012.

Figure 2

NSW government school enrolments (FTE) as a proportion of total 2001 enrolments (FTE) by grade groups



Government enrolment share (FTE)

School enrolment growth can be affected by parental choice in selecting non-government education, the base school population, the changing legal and policy framework in NSW and the ability of schools to respond to demographic changes. Figure 3 shows the change in enrolments of government and non-government schools in each year since 2004 and Table 4 provides data in selected years from 1901.

Overall enrolments in NSW have increased by more than 8,000 each year since 2010, and by more than 13,000 in each of the last three years. Since 2008, the total number of students enrolled in education in NSW has increased by 71,656 students. The significant annual increase in school enrolments observed in 2010 coincided with changes to the NSW school leaving age with more recent changes the result of increased births.

In both 2014 and 2015 the enrolment growth of government schools surpassed the enrolment growth of non-government schools. Government enrolments increased by 8,280 in 2015, compared with an increase of 5,004 for non-government schools. The growth in government enrolments is largely driven by a significant increase in government primary school enrolments, by 9,685 students in 2015.

Table 4

Enrolments (FTE) in NSW government and non-government Schools, 1901-2015

| Year | Government | | Non-government | | Total |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| | Enrolment | Share | Enrolment | Share | |
| 1901 | 210,588 | 77.6% | 60,837 | 22.4% | 271,425 |
| 1911 | 221,810 | 78.3% | 61,550 | 21.7% | 283,360 |
| 1921 | 315,228 | 80.1% | 78,460 | 19.9% | 393,688 |
| 1931 | 387,881 | 80.8% | 92,285 | 19.2% | 480,166 |
| 1941 | 337,073 | 76.2% | 105,319 | 23.8% | 442,392 |
| 1951 | 405,906 | 75.3% | 133,019 | 24.7% | 538,925 |
| 1961 | 610,883 | 75.2% | 201,147 | 24.8% | 812,030 |
| 1971 | 771,713 | 77.6% | 222,195 | 22.4% | 993,908 |
| 1981 | 790,575 | 76.9% | 237,853 | 23.1% | 1,028,428 |
| 1986 | 755,257 | 73.6% | 270,745 | 26.4% | 1,026,011 |
| 1991 | 746,417 | 72.0% | 290,896 | 28.0% | 1,037,313 |
| 1996 | 761,037 | 71.4% | 305,383 | 28.6% | 1,066,420 |
| 2003 | 751,185 | 67.7% | 357,716 | 32.3% | 1,108,901 |
| 2004 | 745,508 | 67.2% | 363,090 | 32.8% | 1,108,598 |
| 2005 | 741,578 | 66.9% | 367,476 | 33.1% | 1,109,054 |
| 2006 | 740,415 | 66.7% | 369,902 | 33.3% | 1,110,317 |
| 2007 | 738,636 | 66.5% | 371,822 | 33.5% | 1,110,458 |
| 2008 | 735,779 | 66.3% | 374,171 | 33.7% | 1,109,950 |
| 2009 | 736,647 | 66.2% | 375,522 | 33.8% | 1,112,169 |
| 2010 | 742,141 | 66.2% | 378,289 | 33.8% | 1,120,430 |
| 2011 | 745,540 | 66.0% | 384,209 | 34.0% | 1,129,749 |
| 2012 | 748,234 | 65.7% | 390,756 | 34.3% | 1,138,990 |
| 2013 | 755,346 | 65.4% | 398,813 | 34.6% | 1,154,159 |
| 2014 | 763,698 | 65.4% | 404,623 | 34.6% | 1,168,321 |
| 2015 | 771,978 | 65.3% | 409,627 | 34.7% | 1,181,605 |

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Schools Australia 2014

Notes:

- Government and non-government school data for 1901-1961 include students in ACT schools.
- From 1993 the table includes full-time and part-time students, reported in full-time equivalent units (FTE).

Figure 3

K-12 student enrolment (FTE) change in NSW government and non-government schools, 2004-2015

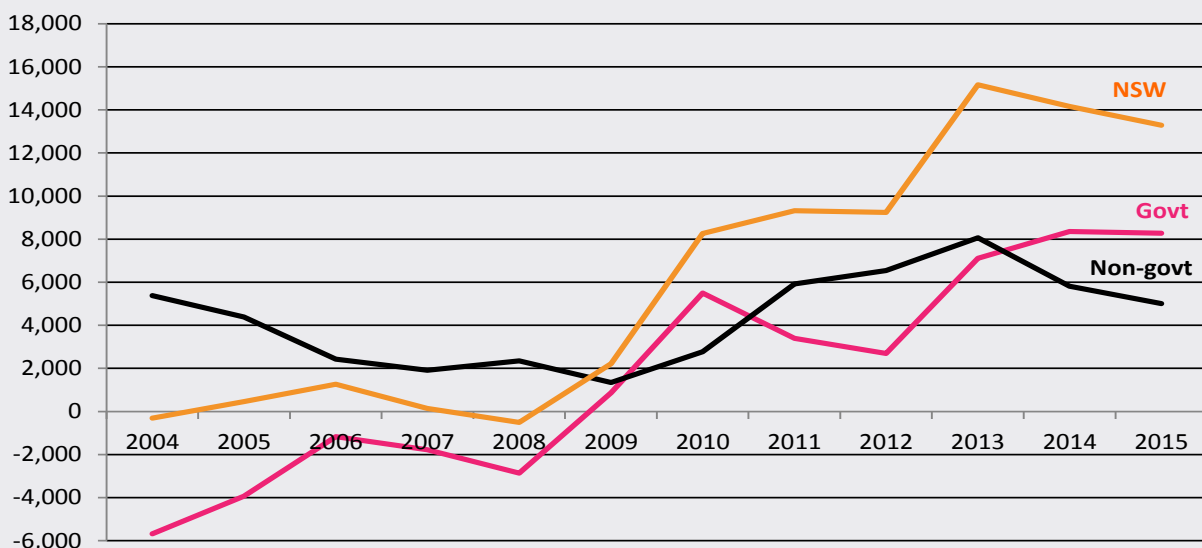


Table 4 shows the enrolment share for students at government and non-government schools in NSW. Despite the large growth in government school enrolments in 2014 and 2015, government enrolment share fell 0.1 percentage point from 65.4 per cent in 2014 to 65.3 per cent in 2015. This is due to slightly larger enrolment growth in non-government schools than government schools in 2015.

From 2004 to 2013, total government enrolment share fell on average around 0.2 percentage points each year, except in 2010 when enrolment share remained unchanged at 66.2 per cent. The decline has slowed in the past two years.

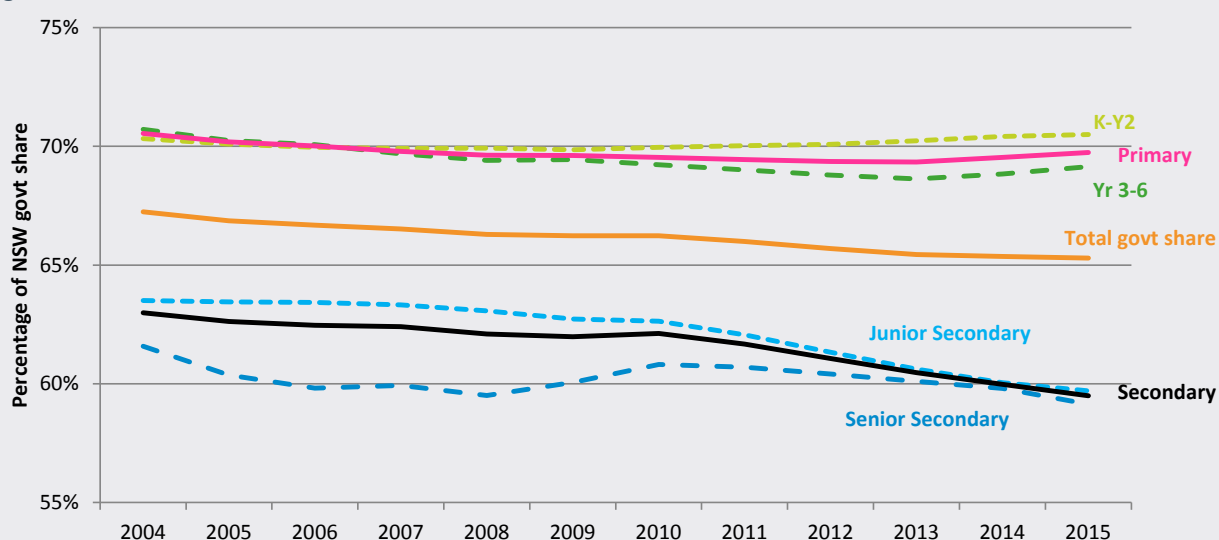
Figure 4 shows NSW government enrolment share by education level. Primary enrolment share declined slowly from

2004 to 2013 but has since risen slightly. Primary enrolment share was around 7 to 8 percentage points higher than secondary enrolment share until 2013, however the gap has widened to over 10 percentage point in 2015. Within primary education, Kindergarten to Year 2 enrolment share rose from 70.4 per cent in 2014 to 70.5 in 2015, and Year 3 to Year 6 increased from 68.8 per cent in 2014 to 69.1 in 2015.

In 2015, junior secondary enrolment share continued its gradual decline, and is now similar to senior secondary enrolment share. In 2008, junior secondary enrolment share was 63.1 per cent, 3.6 per cent higher than senior secondary enrolment share of 59.5 per cent. By 2015 the enrolments share was very similar, at 59.7 per cent for junior secondary and 59.1 per cent for senior secondary enrolments.

Figure 4

NSW government enrolments (FTE) share, 2004-2015



Government preschool

In NSW, most children receiving a preschool education are enrolled at a government funded community preschool or in a Long Day Care centre. The NSW government operates 100 preschools, providing a preschool education to over 4,000 children.

Table 5 shows that the number of children enrolled in government preschools decreased from 4,365 in 2014 to 4,278 in 2015. FTE enrolments also decreased, from 2,356.8 in 2014 to 2,306.6 in 2015.

Aboriginal preschool enrolments accounted for 14.7 per cent of FTE enrolments in 2015, an increase of 1.0 percentage points since 2014. Aboriginal preschool enrolments rose by 32 students or 6.0 per cent, from 533 in 2014 to 565 in 2015.

Table 5

Students in NSW government preschools, head count and full-time equivalent (FTE), 2005-2015

| Year | All Students | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|--|--------------|----------------|
| | Students | FTE | Students | FTE | % of Total FTE |
| 2005 | 4,307 | 2,481.6 | 434 | 275.4 | 11.1% |
| 2006 | 4,273 | 2,444.7 | 422 | 275.2 | 11.3% |
| 2007 | 4,239 | 2,422.6 | 404 | 262.3 | 10.8% |
| 2008 | 4,285 | 2,516.9 | 409 | 269.5 | 10.7% |
| 2009 | 4,291 | 2,455.5 | 491 | 317.7 | 12.9% |
| 2010 | 4,325 | 2,498.6 | 493 | 315.1 | 12.6% |
| 2011 | 4,416 | 2,484.9 | 507 | 328.7 | 13.2% |
| 2012 | 4,424 | 2,460.7 | 599 | 379.9 | 15.4% |
| 2013 | 4,433 | 2,371.1 | 555 | 326.8 | 13.8% |
| 2014 | 4,365 | 2,356.8 | 528 | 318.4 | 13.5% |
| 2015 | 4,278 | 2,306.6 | 565 | 339.9 | 14.7% |

Early intervention preschool children

Children enrolled in an early intervention class at a NSW government school were included in the government school census for the first time in 2012. Early intervention classes provide early childhood education in a preschool setting for children with a disability. Enrolments in early intervention classes decreased by 10 students, from 720 in 2014 to 710 in 2015.

Table 6

Students in NSW government early intervention programs head count and full-time equivalent (FTE), 2012-2015

| Year | All Students | | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|--|-------------|----------------|
| | Students | FTE | Students | FTE | % of Total FTE |
| 2012 | 743 | 151.9 | 68 | 13.0 | 8.6% |
| 2013 | 684 | 147.7 | 76 | 14.8 | 10.0% |
| 2014 | 720 | 168.1 | 91 | 16.7 | 9.9% |
| 2015 | 710 | 162.2 | 98 | 19.3 | 11.9% |

Apparent retention rate

Apparent retention measures the proportion of students who remain at school through to Year 10, 11 or 12 and is one measure of students' engagement with education. For example, the Year 7 to Year 10 apparent retention rate in 2015 is the percentage of Year 10 enrolments in 2015 compared to Year 7 enrolments in 2012. Retention is affected by legal and policy changes such as the school leaving age legislation which came into effect in 2010.

Table 7 and Figure 5 show that most apparent retention rates increased or were unchanged in 2015 compared with 2014. The exception was Year 7 to 12 girls, where apparent retention fell from 81.2 per cent in 2014 to 80.7 in 2015. Year 7 to 10 retention rose by 0.5 percentage points from 103.1 per cent to 103.6 per cent following a rise of 1.1 percentage points in 2014.

In 2015 the apparent retention rate from Year 7 to Year 11 also continued its upward trend, increasing by 0.9 percentage points from 92.1 per cent in 2014 to 93.0 per cent in 2015.

Table 7

Apparent retention in NSW government schools, 2005-2015

| Year | Years 7-10 | | | Years 7-11 | | | Years 7-12 | | | Years 10-11 | | | Years 10-12 | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Boys | Girls | Total | Boys | Girls | Total | Boys | Girls | Total | Boys | Girls | Total | Boys | Girls | Total |
| 2005 | 94.8 | 95.4 | 95.1 | 72.5 | 83.2 | 77.7 | 61.5 | 73.0 | 67.2 | 76.5 | 86.6 | 81.4 | 64.2 | 75.9 | 69.9 |
| 2006 | 95.2 | 95.8 | 95.5 | 73.1 | 83.1 | 78.0 | 60.5 | 72.5 | 66.4 | 77.1 | 87.1 | 82.0 | 63.9 | 75.5 | 69.6 |
| 2007 | 96.0 | 96.6 | 96.3 | 73.9 | 83.8 | 78.7 | 60.0 | 71.5 | 65.7 | 77.6 | 87.5 | 82.4 | 63.3 | 75.0 | 69.1 |
| 2008 | 96.6 | 96.6 | 96.6 | 73.9 | 84.0 | 78.8 | 60.3 | 72.0 | 66.0 | 77.0 | 86.9 | 81.9 | 63.3 | 75.2 | 69.1 |
| 2009 | 95.6 | 97.4 | 96.5 | 77.3 | 85.1 | 81.1 | 61.5 | 73.9 | 67.6 | 80.0 | 88.1 | 84.0 | 64.1 | 76.5 | 70.2 |
| 2010 | 99.4 | 100.2 | 99.8 | 81.1 | 89.7 | 85.3 | 64.9 | 74.8 | 69.7 | 84.8 | 92.2 | 88.4 | 67.1 | 77.4 | 72.2 |
| 2011 | 102.2 | 102.4 | 102.3 | 83.3 | 91.3 | 87.2 | 66.1 | 77.6 | 71.7 | 83.7 | 91.1 | 87.3 | 69.1 | 79.7 | 74.3 |
| 2012 | 101.4 | 102.8 | 102.1 | 86.1 | 93.3 | 89.6 | 66.9 | 77.4 | 72.0 | 84.3 | 91.0 | 87.6 | 67.3 | 77.3 | 72.2 |
| 2013 | 102.0 | 102.1 | 102.0 | 88.1 | 94.6 | 91.3 | 69.0 | 79.7 | 74.3 | 86.9 | 92.0 | 89.4 | 67.6 | 77.8 | 72.6 |
| 2014 | 103.0 | 103.2 | 103.1 | 89.3 | 94.9 | 92.1 | 70.9 | 81.2 | 75.9 | 87.6 | 92.9 | 90.2 | 69.9 | 79.0 | 74.4 |
| 2015 | 103.3 | 103.9 | 103.6 | 90.2 | 95.9 | 93.0 | 71.3 | 80.7 | 75.9 | 87.6 | 93.0 | 90.2 | 70.0 | 79.0 | 74.4 |

Notes:

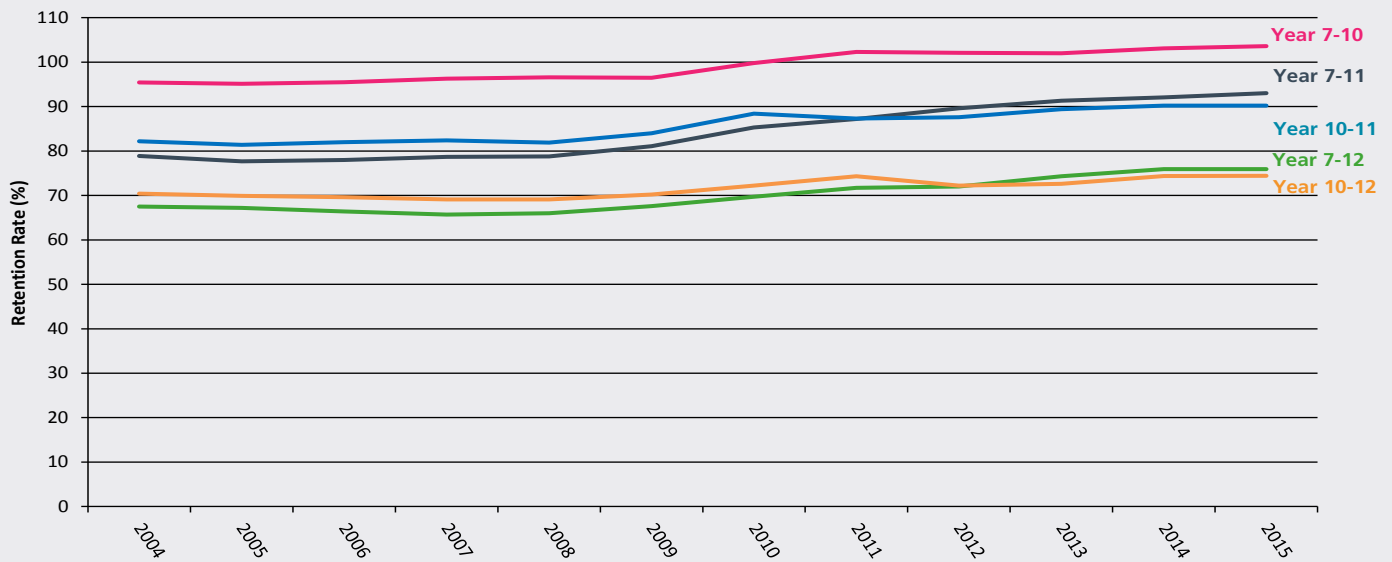
- All enrolments are reported in full-time equivalent units (FTEs), and include full-time and part-time students. Students enrolled in distance education classes are included with their appropriate grade levels.
- See explanatory note 2

Total retention rates for Year 10 to Year 11, Year 10 to Year 12 and Year 7 to Year 12 were unchanged compared with 2014.

As seen in Figure 5, 2015 continues the highest retention rates since 1993 across all cohort groupings. For instance, the apparent retention rate for Year 10 to Year 12 remained at 74.4 per cent.

By gender, the apparent retention rates show a significant difference beyond Year 10. Girls are significantly more likely to remain at school until Year 11 or Year 12 than boys, with the Year 10 to 12 apparent retention rates for girls 9.0 percentage points higher than that of boys in 2015. While the overall Year 7 to Year 12 apparent retention rate was unchanged at 75.9 per cent, the gap between girls and boys narrowed from 10.3 to 9.4 percentage points.

Figure 5
Apparent retention in NSW government schools, 2004-2015



Explanatory Notes

1. Mid-year census

The Census is used for state and federal planning and accountability, including reporting requirements under the NSW Education Act 1990 and the National Education Agreement 2012. Data contribute to the National School Statistics Collection (NSSC) which is collated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) from state and territory student, school and staffing data. Preschool data contribute to the ABS Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) collection.

2. Apparent retention rates

Retention rates are 'apparent' as they do not track individual students through their final years of secondary schooling. What they measure is the ratio of the total number of full-time school students in a designated year (e.g. Year 12 in 2015) divided by the total number of full-time students in a previous year (e.g. Year 7 in 2010). This would be the Year 7 to 12 apparent retention rate in 2015.

Care should be taken in the interpretation of apparent retention rates, which can exceed 100%, because the method of calculation does not take into account a range of factors such as migration, interstate movements of students, transfers to and from non-government schools, part-time schooling, students repeating a year of schooling, or students pursuing other education and training pathways.

Further Information:

Each year the Australian Bureau of Statistics releases full publications and datacubes of government and non-government school enrolments for all states and territories.

www.abs.gov.au

ABS publication details:

- 4221.0 - Schools Australia, 2015
- 4240.0 - Preschool Education Australia, 2015



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