

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Last year Australia's public universities received just over 40% of their recurrent funding from the government. Australia ranks 22nd in the OECD for the amount spent per tertiary student. While Australian's total spending on education ranks 11th, this is significantly boosted by private funding of educational institutions. Public funding ranks only 21st in the OECD. (The Age/ OECD)

In 2005, Australian uni fees were deregulated, allowing tuition charges to be increased by up to 25%, removing the cap full-fee paying places, and limited Commonwealth supported study to seven years.

Australia is now one of the most expensive places in the world to get a tertiary education. (The Age)

Education outcomes at primary and secondary levels are very uneven. Causes include resources shortfalls, socio-economic factors, remote locations, English proficiency, intellectual & physical disabilities, and home-life issues, but POVERTY is the main barrier to educational achievement. (UCA)

Total Australian government spending on education (%GDP) has declined since 1995, and is below OECD average. (OECD)

67% of school students attend government schools, a decrease of 2% since 1996. (ABS)

The proportion of students in post-compulsory education has declined in the past ten years. (ABS)