

## **Australian Capital Territory public schools**

### **Jurisdiction-specific comments**

- The ACT is the only jurisdiction in Australia to provide Early Childhood Schools which commenced during 2009 and one of the few jurisdictions to provide separate year 11 and 12 colleges.
- Public schooling financial data is compliant with ACARA's agreed methodology and only includes income for students from kindergarten and above.
- ACT public schools do not charge fees except for international students. Students are requested to make voluntary contributions.
- ACT public school staffing is managed through a points system and therefore financial data is allocated using this system and reconciled to the general ledger. The ACT public school system is committed to improved transparency in its funding to public schools.
- In 2015, there were five Introductory English Centres (IEC) in the ACT, at Dickson College, Charnwood Dunlop Primary, Hughes Primary, North Ainslie Primary, Wanniasa Hills Primary and Palmerston District Primary School. These schools received income to provide English as a Secondary Language services to enrolments from other ACT public schools.
- ACT public schools are not permitted to enter into contracts to borrow money.
- The ACT's per-capita income will generally be higher than other jurisdictions and sectors due to lower student to teacher ratios. In 2015, the ACT's student to teacher ratio across all levels was 13.1:1 compared to the Australian average across all affiliations of 14.2:1 (Source: Schools, Australia 2015, ABS 4221.0).
- The ACT inherited high cost superannuation schemes from the Australian Government. While these schemes are closed to new entrants it has resulted in significantly higher costs than in other jurisdictions and sectors.