

The social make-up of schools

Family income, religion, Indigenous status, and family type in government, Catholic and other nongovernment schools

An information paper prepared for the Australian Education Union

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1. Introduction

This paper is based on Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2001 custom tables of the populations of (a) all school students, (b) Indigenous school students and (c) school students in one parent families, in primary and secondary schools in the government, Catholic and other nongovernment sectors, by family income and (in part) religion.

This is broad-brush data on the social make-up of schools in the different sectors, and, in some cases, different States and Territories. Such data is vitally important for the development of good policy on many aspects of schooling, because it is widely recognised that matters such as family income, Indigenous status and family type have an impact on the qualitative and quantitative educational needs of students, and thus of schools and sectors. Data on matters such as religion (especially in combination with family income) inform understandings of the social roles of different school sectors, and thus can inform the policies of school authorities, governments, and others.

There is, of course, great diversity within the school sectors in the States and Territories - there is variation between schools and within schools. However, the macro-level data reported here is relevant to a range of significant national and State/Territory level policies concerned with the administration and funding of schools, and can provide indications of where more investigation may be needed to better inform other policies.

Policy conclusions are beyond the scope of this report. To draw out policy conclusions requires positions on ends and values, and, generally, further relevant information (evidence).

Under each of the following headings there is commentary, tables and graphs. Box 1.1 provides details of the Census definitions and the particular categories used in this paper.

School type and family income of students

This section looks at the school sectors (government, Catholic and other nongovernment at both primary and secondary levels) in terms of the proportions of their students who are in families with low, medium and high incomes. Details for each of the States and Territories are provided, and comparisons made between and within States and Territories.

Family income and school type attended

This section looks at children in families in different income ranges (low medium and high) in terms of the type of school attended (government, Catholic and other nongovernment) at primary and secondary levels.

Religion, family income and type of school attended

This section looks at children of different religions (Catholic, nonCatholic or no religion, and Islamic) in families in different income ranges (low, medium and high) in terms of the type of school attended (government, Catholic and other nongovernment) at primary and secondary levels.

Indigenous and all primary and secondary students, by family income

This section looks at Indigenous and all students at the primary and secondary levels in each State and Territory according to family income. In this and following sections five family income ranges are used. The 'low' range used in the previous sections is subdivided into three, and the 'medium' and 'high' ranges remain the same.

School type and Indigenous status of students, by family income

This section looks first at the proportion of all primary and secondary students in each income range and all ranges, in each school sector and all sectors, who are Indigenous. Data is then provided on the proportion of all Indigenous students in each school sector at primary and secondary levels who are in each family income range.

Indigenous students, family income, religion and type of school attended

In this section there is data for Australia and each State and Territory on the percentages of Indigenous primary and secondary students in each family income range who attend government, Catholic or other nongovernment schools. Similar data is then provided for Australia as a whole for Indigenous students of Catholic religion, nonCatholic religion (and no religion), and all Indigenous students.

Students in one parent families and all primary and secondary students, by family income

This section looks at students in one parent families and all students at the primary and secondary levels in each State and Territory according to family income. As with the data on Indigenous students, five family income ranges are used, with the 'low' range divided into three.

Students in one parent families, family income, and type of school attended

In this section there is data for Australia on the percentages of primary and secondary students in one parent families in each family income range who attend government, Catholic or other nongovernment schools.

Summary comparisons between different groups

In this section there is data on the percentages attending government primary or secondary schools of (a) all students (b) Indigenous students and (c) students in one parent families in each of the five family income ranges.

Box 1.1. Data and definitions

The data in this report is from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 Census, custom tables. Further information on definitions is available in the ABS *2001 Census Dictionary* (Cat. No. 2901.0) <<http://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/abs%40.nsf/66f306f503e529a5ca25697e0017661f/5d885de7659d4c8cca256a3800008ef3!OpenDocument>>

School type is according to the Census classifications (TYPP, categories 02 to 07): Government infants/primary, Catholic infants/primary, and Other nonGovernment infants/primary, Government secondary, Catholic secondary, and Other nonGovernment secondary. All school children for whom useable responses regarding school type and family income (see following) were provided on Census night in August 2001 are included in the data. The total number of students in these custom tables compared with the total number reported in the ABS *2001 Schools Australia* (Cat. No. 4221.0, p. 13) is 81% at the primary level and 72% at the secondary level. This is generally adequate for the level of analysis in this report.

Family income (FINF, various combinations of categories 1 to 18) is the combined annual income of students' family members as reported on Census night. Usually this is parents' income, but may include the income of siblings and other immediate family members who are part of the household. ABS provides family income data according to 16 income ranges (plus other categories such as negative and nil income, and not stated). For this report the incomes are classified into 'low' (less than \$800 a week), 'medium' (between \$800 and \$1499 a week) and 'high' (\$1500 and over a week) income ranges. For secondary students around one third are in each of the three categories, while at the primary level a larger proportion are in the low income category and a smaller proportion in the high income category (this is because parents tend to be younger and in earlier stages of their careers, and mothers are more likely to be working fewer hours or not be in the workforce). Thus analyses of the primary level need to take account of the higher proportion in the low family income range than in the high family income range, and comparisons between primary and secondary levels need to take account of the larger proportion overall of low family income students at the primary level. In addition to the three main classifications used consistently throughout the report, for analyses involving Indigenous students and students in single parent families the 'low' income category is further divided into three: less than \$400 a week, between \$400 and \$599, and \$600 to 799. The family income range of less than \$400 a week in 2001 includes most one parent families wholly dependent on public benefits. The family income range of \$400-\$599 includes most two parent families wholly dependent on public benefits. Large families on benefits may have higher family incomes.

Religion (RELP, category 207 for 'Catholic', category 4 for 'Islam', and all others) focuses on those students whose religion was reported as 'Christianity, Catholic' or 'Islam' and all others (other religions, no religion, not stated)

Indigenous students (INGP) are those students who were reported to be 'Aboriginal', 'Torres Strait Islander' or 'Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander'. Adequate information was not provided for all Indigenous school students on Census night (for example, data on school type or family income may have been missing), however the total number of Indigenous students in these custom tables compared with the total number reported in the ABS *2001 Schools Australia* (Cat. No. 4221.0, p.21) is 75% at the primary level and 67% at the secondary level.

Students in **One Parent Families** (FMTF category 3) include all students reported to be in one parent families, whatever the dependent status of children in the family, and whether or not there are other relatives in the family household.

2. School type and family income of students

The three major schooling sectors in Australia greatly differ in the patterns of family incomes of their students.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) provides 2001 Census data on the type of school attended by primary and secondary school students (government, Catholic or other nongovernment) and the family income ranges of students. Family income can be classified into 'low', 'medium' and 'high' ranges, in each of which about one third of secondary students are classified (primary students' families tend to be lower income) - see Box 1.1 for a discussion of classifications.

Table 2.1 Percentage of students in each of Australian government, Catholic and other nongovernment primary, secondary and all schools with low, medium or high family incomes, 2001

	Family income			All income levels
	Low <\$800	Medium \$800-\$1499	High >\$1500	
Primary schools				
Government	44%	37%	20%	100%
Catholic	29%	41%	31%	100%
Other nongovernment	27%	32%	41%	100%
All primary schools	39%	37%	24%	100%
Secondary schools				
Government	40%	37%	23%	100%
Catholic	24%	37%	39%	100%
Other nongovernment	20%	28%	52%	100%
All secondary schools	34%	36%	31%	100%
All schools				
Government	42%	37%	21%	100%
Catholic	27%	39%	34%	100%
Other nongovernment	23%	30%	47%	100%
All schools	37%	36%	26%	100%

Table 2.1 and Figure 2.1 provide details for Australia as a whole.

At both primary and secondary levels, government schools have a large proportion of students in low income families, while both Catholic and other nongovernment schools have a small proportion of their students in low income families.

In government schools 42 per cent of students are in low income families. In contrast, in Catholic schools, only 27 per cent of students are in low income families, and in other nongovernment secondary schools only 23 per cent of students are in low income families.

The three school types also diverge in the proportion of their students who are in high income families - government schools have a small proportion, nonCatholic nongovernment schools a large proportion, and Catholic schools are between them.

In government schools only 21 per cent of students are in high income families. In contrast, in Catholic schools, 34 per cent of students are in high income families, and in other nongovernment schools 47 per cent of students are in high income families.

The pattern is most pronounced at the secondary level. More than half the students in nonCatholic nongovernment secondary schools are in high income families, while in government schools less than one quarter are in high income families.

Data for all schools (primary and secondary combined) for each sector in each State and Territory are provided in Table 2.2. This table also provides statistics on the actual and standardised ratios between the percentage of students in low and high income families for each sector. The standardised ratios facilitate comparisons between school sectors *within* each State and Territory. The nature of these ratios is described in Box 2.1.

Three States - **Tasmania, South Australia and Queensland** - have a significantly higher percentage of students (in all school sectors) in low income families - respectively 46 per cent, 41 per cent and 41 per cent, while the national figure is 37 per cent. There is a striking pattern for these three States apparent from the standardised ratios of percentages of students in low compared to high income families. *Government schools* in these three States have the *highest* percentages of students in low compared with high income families even when the ratios for the States as a whole (all school sectors) are standardised to 1.0 (1.6, 1.5 and 1.6 respectively, compared with a national ratio for the government school sector of 1.4). Conversely, the *Catholic* sectors have the *lowest* percentages of students in low compared with high income families (0.5, 0.5 and 0.4 respectively, compared with the national ratio for the Catholic sector of 0.6). The small size of the nonCatholic nongovernment sectors, and the closeness to the national standardised ratio of 0.3 in these three States, indicates that the nonCatholic nongovernment sectors made little, if any, contribution to the pattern of the government sectors having disproportionately (compared with other States and Territories) large percentages of students in low compared to high income families. That is, though the make-up of nonCatholic nongovernment schools in all States has a significant reciprocating effect on the make-up of government schools, the effect is not more marked in these three States, while the reciprocating effect of the Catholic sector is much greater in these three States compared with other States and Territories.

In summary: in the three lowest family income States (Tasmania, South Australia and Queensland), if the overall family income differences between States and Territories is controlled, the government sector has a particularly high proportion of students in low income families, and a low proportion of students in high income families. The reverse is the case for the Catholic sector.

Victoria is not a low income State, but it has a high standardised ratio of the percentage of government school students in low compared with high income families (1.5, compared with the national ratio of 1.4). In Victoria the ratio for the Catholic sector is higher than the national figure (0.7 compared with 0.6), but the large nonCatholic nongovernment sector is lower than the national figure (both 0.3 after rounding). Thus it appears that it is the nonCatholic nongovernment sector's particularly low proportion of students in low compared with high income families that is the reciprocal (balance) the government sector's high proportion of students in low compared with high income families, with the Catholic sector slightly ameliorating the differences (though the Catholic sector still has a higher percentage of students in low compared with high income families).

Box 2.1. Notes on ratios in Table 2.2

Ratio low to high family income. This statistic is the simple ratio of the percentage of students in the sector of that row (for example, NSW government schools in the top row) who are in low income families relative to the proportion who are in high income families (students in medium income families are excluded from the calculation). If the number is 1.0, then there is an equal percentage in each of the two extreme income categories. Where the number is greater than 1.0 there is a higher percentage of students in low income families, and where the number is less than 1.0 there is a higher percentage of students in high income families.

The statistic for 'all schools' in each State and Territory indicates the overall relative percentages of students in low compared with high income families. Nationally the statistic of 1.4 indicates that there is a higher percentage of students from low income families relative to the percentage from high income families. This is explained in Box A, and the data in Table 1.1 indicates that though there are similar percentages of secondary students in the low and high family income ranges, at the primary level a much higher percentage are from low income families. Thus, for all students (primary and secondary together), there is a higher proportion from low income families. Those States with a substantially greater than national ratio of the percentage of students from low income families relative to high income families (ratios greater than 1.5) are Tasmania (2.7), South Australia (2.0) and Queensland (1.9). Those Territories and States with a less than national ratio of the percentage of students from low income families relative to high income families (ratios less than 1.4) are the ACT (0.5), NSW (1.2) and Victoria (1.3).

From this ratio we can deduce those particular sectors with very high percentages of students from low income families compared with the percentages from high income families. Nationally government schools have twice the percentage of students from low income families compared with those from high income families (2.0). All government school sectors except that in the ACT, and no Catholic or other nongovernment school sectors, have ratios above the national average for all schools in all sectors of 1.4. The highest ratios (and thus the highest percentages of students from low income families and the lowest proportions from high income families) are the government school sectors in Tasmania (4.3), South Australia and Queensland (both 2.9), and Western Australia (2.1). In contrast, in both the Catholic and other nongovernment school sectors there are lower percentages of students in low income families than in high income families (ratios of 0.8 and 0.5 respectively).

Ratio to 'all schools', low to high family income. This statistic controls for the differences between States and Territories in the percentages of students with low and high family incomes, and standardises (equalises) the percentage of all students in each State and Territory with both low and high family incomes. Thus the ratio for 'all schools' in each State and Territory is 1.0.

This facilitates comparisons between school sectors *within* each State and Territory. The largest standardised percentages of students in low relative to high income families are in the government sectors in Queensland, Tasmania (both 1.6), South Australia and Victoria (both 1.5). Those States where the Catholic sector has the smallest standardised percentages of students in low relative to high income families are Queensland (0.4), South Australia and Tasmania (both 0.5). Those States where the nonCatholic nongovernment sector has the smallest standardised percentages of students in low relative to high income families are Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria (all 0.3).

Table 2.2 Percentage of students in each of government, Catholic and other nongovernment schools, with low, medium or high family incomes, States and Territories, 2001

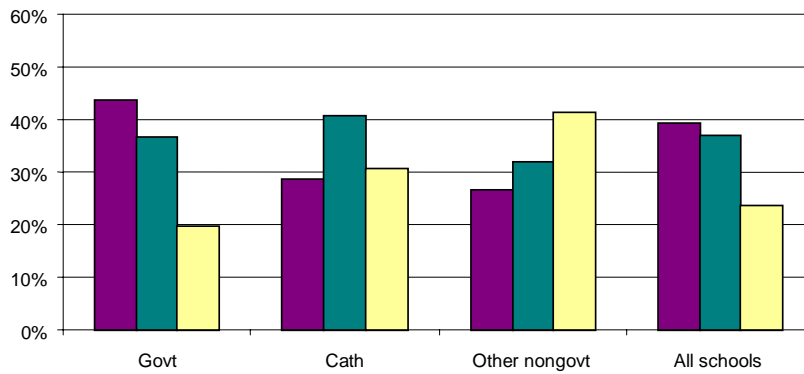
		Family income			Ratio low to high family income*	Ratio to all schools, low to high family income*
		Low <\$800	Medium \$800-\$1499	High >\$1500		
NSW schools	Government	41%	35%	24%	1.7	1.4
	Catholic	26%	37%	37%	0.7	0.6
	Other nongovernment	22%	27%	51%	0.4	0.4
	All NSW schools	36%	35%	30%	1.2	1.0
Vic. schools	Government	40%	38%	22%	1.8	1.5
	Catholic	28%	40%	31%	0.9	0.7
	Other nongovernment	21%	27%	52%	0.4	0.3
	All Victorian schools	35%	37%	28%	1.3	1.0
Qld schools	Government	47%	37%	16%	2.9	1.6
	Catholic	26%	40%	33%	0.8	0.4
	Other nongovernment	26%	34%	40%	0.7	0.3
	All Qld schools	41%	37%	22%	1.9	1.0
WA schools	Government	42%	38%	20%	2.1	1.4
	Catholic	27%	40%	33%	0.8	0.6
	Other nongovernment	25%	32%	43%	0.6	0.4
	All WA schools	37%	38%	25%	1.5	1.0
SA schools	Government	47%	38%	16%	2.9	1.5
	Catholic	30%	42%	28%	1.1	0.5
	Other nongovernment	27%	35%	37%	0.7	0.4
	All SA schools	41%	38%	21%	2.0	1.0
Tas schools	Government	52%	36%	12%	4.3	1.6
	Catholic	31%	44%	25%	1.2	0.5
	Other nongovernment	28%	33%	39%	0.7	0.3
	All Tasmanian schools	46%	37%	17%	2.7	1.0
NT schools	Government	42%	33%	25%	1.7	1.2
	Catholic	30%	32%	38%	0.8	0.6
	Other nongovernment	23%	30%	47%	0.5	0.4
	All NT schools	39%	33%	28%	1.4	1.0
ACT schools	Government	27%	33%	39%	0.7	1.4
	Catholic	16%	33%	51%	0.3	0.6
	Other nongovernment	12%	23%	65%	0.2	0.4
	All ACT schools	23%	32%	45%	0.5	1.0
Australian schools	Government	42%	37%	21%	2.0	1.4
	Catholic	27%	39%	34%	0.8	0.6
	Other nongovernment	23%	30%	47%	0.5	0.3
	All Australian schools	37%	36%	26%	1.4	1.0

* See explanation in Box 2.1.

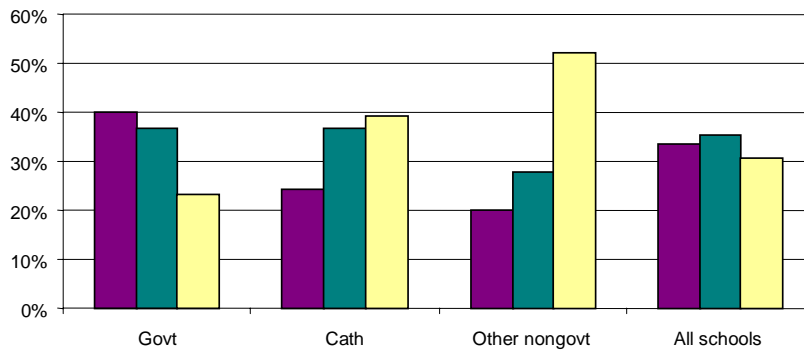
Figure 2.1. Percentage of students in each of Australian government, Catholic and other nongovernment primary and secondary schools with low, medium or high family incomes, 2001

Family income level: Low (< \$800/wk) Medium ((\$800-\$1499/wk) High (>\$1500/wk)

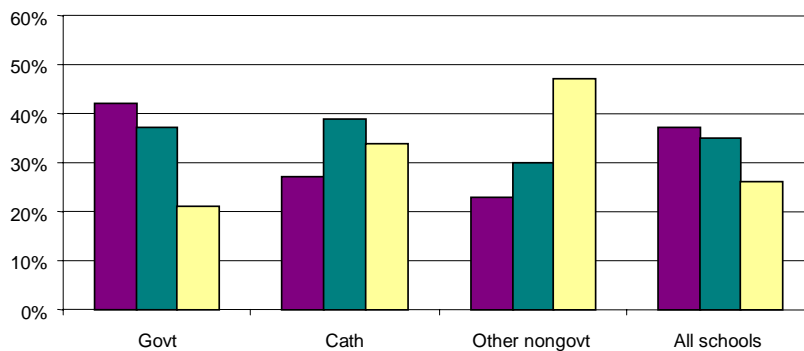
Primary schools



Secondary schools



All schools (primary & secondary)



3. Family income and school type attended

Children in families in different income ranges have very different patterns in the type of school attended.

The majority of primary school students in all family income ranges attend government schools. However, 80 per cent of primary students with low family incomes attend government schools, while fewer than 60 per cent of primary students in high income families attend government schools.

At the secondary level the difference between the income groups is even more marked. While more than three quarters of secondary students in low income families attend government schools, fewer than half of the secondary students in high income families attend government schools.

Attendance at both Catholic and other nongovernment schools shows a reverse pattern, which is more pronounced for nonCatholic nongovernment schools, and at the secondary level. While fewer than 10 per cent of secondary student children in low income families attend nonCatholic nongovernment schools, a quarter of secondary student children in high income families attend nonCatholic nongovernment schools.

Table 3.1 and Figure 3.1 provide details.

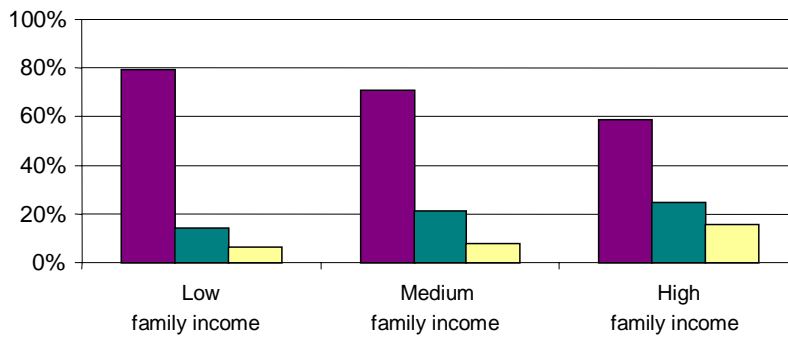
Table 3.1 Percentage of Australian primary, secondary and all school children in each family income range who attend government, Catholic or other nongovernment schools, 2001

	Low family income <\$800	Medium family income \$800-\$1499	High family income >\$1500	All family income ranges
<i>Type of school attended by primary students</i>				
Government	80%	71%	59%	72%
Catholic	14%	21%	25%	19%
Other nongovernment	6%	8%	16%	9%
All primary schools	100%	100%	100%	100%
<i>Type of school attended by secondary students</i>				
Government	76%	67%	48%	64%
Catholic	15%	22%	27%	21%
Other nongovernment	9%	12%	25%	15%
All secondary schools	100%	100%	100%	100%
<i>Type of school attended by all (primary & secondary) students</i>				
Government	78%	69%	54%	69%
Catholic	15%	22%	26%	20%
Other nongovernment	7%	9%	20%	11%
All schools	100%	100%	100%	100%

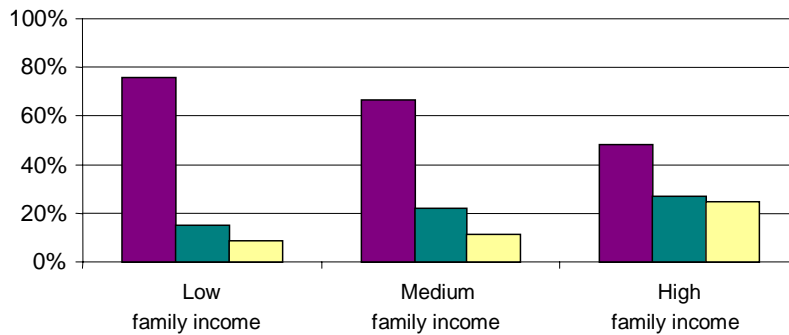
Figure 3.1 Percentage of Australian primary and secondary students in each family income range who attend government, Catholic or other nongovernment schools, 2001

School type attended: Government Catholic Other nongovernment

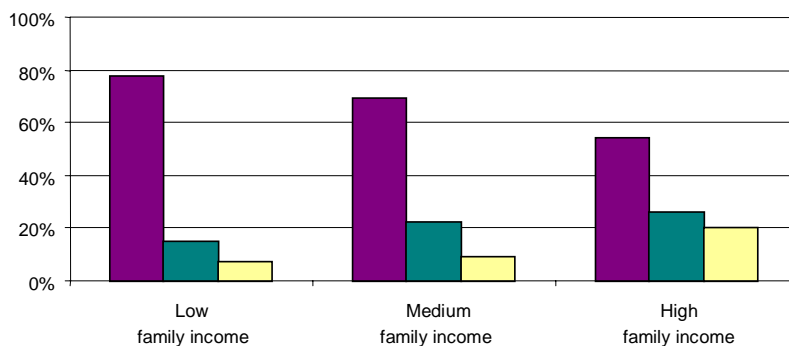
Primary students



Secondary students



All students (primary & secondary)



4. Religion, family income and type of school attended

It is to be expected that students of Catholic religion are more likely to attend Catholic schools - just over half of both primary and secondary Catholic students attend Catholic schools, while less than ten per cent of nonCatholic students attend Catholic schools. (Around 43 per cent of Catholic students attend government schools, and around 5 per cent attend nonCatholic nongovernment schools.)

However, among students of the Catholic religion there is a greater difference in the tendency to attend government schools according to family income than there is for other groups.

At the *primary* level 56 per cent of low family income Catholic students attend government schools, while only 32 per cent of high family income Catholic students attend government schools. Among all other primary students (nonCatholic or no religion students), 88 per cent of those with low family incomes attend government schools, and 74 per cent of those with high family incomes attend government schools - a lesser difference than for Catholic religion students, however it is measured.

At the *secondary* level the percentage of low income Catholic religion students attending government schools is the same as for primary (56 per cent), while only 27 per cent of high family income Catholic students attend government schools. Among all other primary students (nonCatholic or no religion students), 83 per cent of those with low family incomes attend government schools, and 58 per cent of those with high family incomes attend government schools - again, a lesser difference than for Catholic religion students, however it is measured.

Islamic students (about two per cent of all students) at all income levels are much more likely to attend government schools than Catholic students, though they are less likely to attend government schools than are all other nonCatholic (or no religion) students. Like Catholic students with high family incomes, Islamic students with high family incomes have a greater tendency to attend nongovernment schools (Catholic and other), though this is not as pronounced as it is for Catholics.

Table 4.1 and Figure 4.1 provide details.

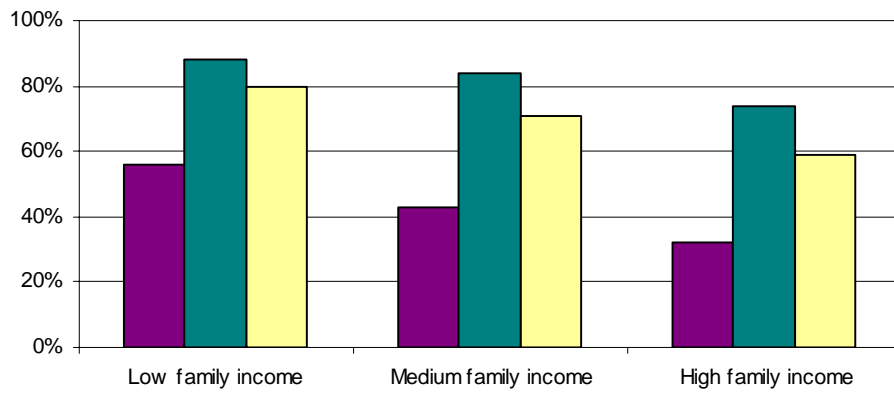
Table 4.1. Percentage of Australian primary and secondary students of selected religions in each family income range who attend government, Catholic or other nongovernment schools, 2001

Type of school attended	Low family income <\$800		Medium family income \$800-\$1499		High family income >\$1500		All family income ranges	
	Primary	Sec.	Primary	Sec.	Primary	Sec.	Primary	Sec.
<i>Catholic religion students</i>								
Government	56%	56%	43%	43%	32%	27%	44%	42%
Catholic	42%	40%	54%	52%	61%	62%	52%	52%
Other nongovt	2%	4%	3%	4%	7%	10%	4%	6%
All schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<i>NonCatholic or no religion students</i>								
Government	88%	83%	84%	77%	74%	58%	83%	74%
Catholic	5%	6%	6%	8%	6%	9%	5%	8%
Other nongovt	8%	10%	10%	15%	20%	32%	11%	18%
All schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<i>Islamic religion students</i>								
Government	80%	85%	79%	83%	73%	73%	79%	83%
Catholic	2%	3%	3%	5%	4%	7%	2%	4%
Other nongovt	18%	11%	19%	12%	23%	20%	19%	13%
All schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<i>All students</i>								
Government	80%	76%	71%	67%	59%	48%	72%	64%
Catholic	14%	15%	21%	22%	25%	27%	19%	21%
Other nongovt	6%	9%	8%	12%	16%	25%	9%	15%
All schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

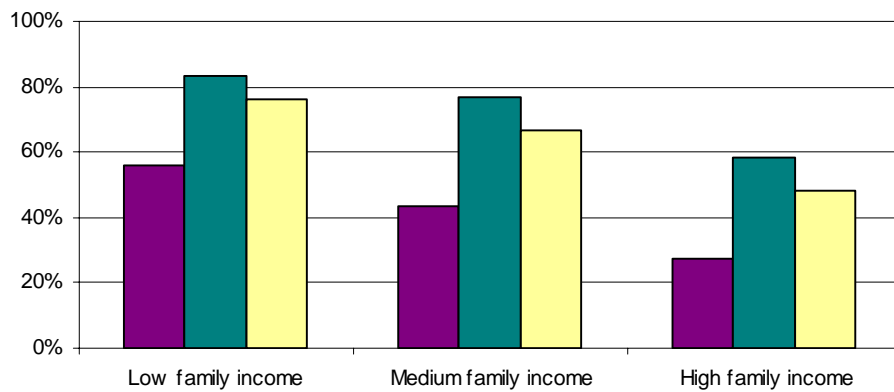
Figure 4.1. Percentage of Australian primary and students of selected religions in each family income range who attend government schools, 2001

Religion of students: Catholic NonCatholic & no religion All students

Primary students



Secondary students



5. Indigenous and all primary and secondary students, by family income

Indigenous students at both the primary and secondary levels are twice as likely as other students to have very low family incomes (less than \$600 a week). The family income range of less than \$400 a week in 2001 includes most one parent families on public benefits. The family income range of \$400-\$599 includes most two parent families on public benefits. (Large families on benefits may have higher family incomes.) NonIndigenous students are three times as likely as Indigenous students to be in high income families (over \$1500 a week).

At both the primary and secondary levels the patterns are generally similar in the different States and Territories once the overall family income patterns of students is taken into account.

Tables 5.1 and 5.2 provide data for each State and Territory, primary and secondary students respectively.

Table 5.1 Percentage in each family income range, Indigenous primary students and all primary students, Australia and all States and Territories, 2001

	Low family income			Medium family income \$800-\$1499	High family income >\$1500	All family income ranges
	<\$400	\$400-\$599	\$600-\$799			
Australia						
Indigenous students	26%	25%	17%	25%	7%	100%
All students	12%	14%	13%	37%	24%	100%
New South Wales						
Indigenous students	28%	25%	16%	24%	8%	100%
All students	12%	14%	12%	35%	27%	100%
Victoria						
Indigenous students	27%	24%	16%	26%	8%	100%
All students	11%	13%	13%	38%	25%	100%
Queensland						
Indigenous students	22%	25%	19%	28%	7%	100%
All students	12%	16%	15%	38%	19%	100%
Western Australia						
Indigenous students	28%	25%	16%	24%	7%	100%
All students	12%	14%	13%	38%	23%	100%
South Australia						
Indigenous students	29%	25%	17%	23%	6%	100%
All students	13%	16%	14%	39%	18%	100%
Tasmania						
Indigenous students	23%	25%	21%	26%	6%	100%
All students	14%	18%	17%	37%	14%	100%
Northern Territory						
Indigenous students	31%	25%	15%	22%	8%	100%
All students	16%	15%	11%	33%	26%	100%
ACT						
Indigenous students	20%	17%	12%	28%	22%	100%
All students	8%	8%	9%	34%	41%	100%

5.2 Percentage in each family income range, Indigenous secondary students and all secondary students, Australia and all States and Territories, 2001

	Low family income			Medium family income \$800-\$1499	High family income >\$1500	All family income ranges
	<\$400	\$400-\$599	\$600-\$799			
Australia						
Indigenous students	21%	23%	17%	29%	10%	100%
All students	9%	13%	12%	36%	31%	100%
New South Wales						
Indigenous students	29%	28%	17%	27%	11%	100%
All students	9%	12%	11%	34%	34%	100%
Victoria						
Indigenous students	23%	23%	16%	30%	11%	100%
All students	9%	12%	12%	36%	31%	100%
Queensland						
Indigenous students	28%	32%	19%	31%	9%	100%
All students	10%	14%	13%	37%	26%	100%
Western Australia						
Indigenous students	24%	22%	18%	28%	9%	100%
All students	10%	12%	11%	37%	30%	100%
South Australia						
Indigenous students	25%	23%	17%	26%	9%	100%
All students	10%	14%	13%	37%	25%	100%
Tasmania						
Indigenous students	20%	26%	18%	28%	9%	100%
All students	11%	16%	14%	37%	22%	100%
Northern Territory						
Indigenous students	23%	21%	17%	28%	11%	100%
All students	11%	12%	11%	32%	35%	100%
ACT						
Indigenous students	13%	19%	9%	33%	27%	100%
All students	6%	7%	7%	29%	51%	100%

6. School type and Indigenous status of students, by family income

Indigenous students made up in 2001 around 4.1 per cent of all primary students and 2.7 per cent of all secondary students according to ABS *2001 Schools Australia* (Cat. No. 4221.0, p. 21). Indigenous students are thus a little underrepresented in the Census data reported here (see also Box 1.1). However, the general patterns indicated in the data are likely to reflect reality.

Indigenous students are around 8.5 per cent of all primary school students in the very low family income range of less than \$400 a week, but they are barely one per cent of all primary students in the high family income range of \$1500 a week or more. The pattern is similar at the secondary level, though the overall proportion of Indigenous students is lower.

The proportion of students in each family income range who are Indigenous in government schools is two to three times the proportion in either Catholic or other nongovernment schools. In all family income ranges the proportion of Indigenous students in government primary schools is 4.6 per cent, compared with 1.7 per cent in Catholic schools and 1.5 per cent in other nongovernment schools. . In all family income ranges the proportion of Indigenous students in government secondary schools is 3.4 per cent, compared with 1.1 per cent in Catholic schools and 0.9 per cent in other nongovernment schools.

Table 6.1 indicates the proportion of all primary and secondary students in each income range and all ranges, in each school sector and all sectors, who are Indigenous.

Table 6.1 Australian Indigenous students as a percentage of all students in each family income range, attending government, Catholic or other nongovernment primary and secondary schools, 2001

	Low family income			Medium family income	High family income	All family income ranges
	<\$400	\$400-\$599	\$600-\$799	\$800-\$1499	>\$1500	
Primary schools						
Government	9.3%	7.3%	5.6%	3.1%	1.5%	4.6%
Catholic	4.5%	3.6%	2.3%	1.4%	0.8%	1.7%
Other nongovt	4.1%	3.5%	2.5%	1.2%	0.5%	1.5%
All primary schools	8.5%	6.6%	4.9%	2.6%	1.1%	3.8%
Secondary schools						
Government	6.7%	5.2%	4.4%	2.5%	1.3%	3.4%
Catholic	2.6%	2.1%	1.8%	1.1%	0.6%	1.1%
Other nongovt	2.6%	2.5%	1.7%	1.0%	0.3%	0.9%
All secondary schools	5.8%	4.5%	3.7%	2.0%	0.8%	2.5%

Table 6.2 indicates the proportion of all Indigenous students in each school sector who are in each family income range. More than half the Indigenous students in government primary schools are in the two lowest family income ranges (less than \$600 a week). Indigenous students in Catholic primary schools are generally in higher income families than Indigenous students in other nongovernment schools. The pattern is similar at the secondary level, though overall family incomes are a little higher (as is the case for all students - see Box 1.1).

Table 6.2 Australian Indigenous students in each family income range as a percentage of all Indigenous students attending government, Catholic or other nongovernment primary and secondary schools, 2001

	Low family income			Medium family income	High family income	All family income ranges
	<\$400	\$400-\$599	\$600-\$799	\$800-\$1499	>\$1500	
Primary schools						
Government	27%	25%	17%	24%	6%	100%
Catholic	19%	21%	15%	32%	13%	100%
Other nongovt	20%	23%	17%	27%	13%	100%
All primary schools	26%	25%	17%	25%	7%	100%
Secondary schools						
Government	22%	24%	18%	28%	9%	100%
Catholic	13%	16%	15%	36%	20%	100%
Other nongovt	17%	20%	15%	32%	17%	100%
All secondary schools	21%	23%	17%	29%	10%	100%

7. Indigenous students, family income, religion and type of school attended

Indigenous students in very low family income ranges are more likely to attend government schools than Indigenous students in higher family income ranges. This is most marked at both the primary and secondary levels in Tasmania, the ACT and South Australia, and least in the Northern Territory.

Nationally around 90 per cent of Indigenous students with very low family incomes attend government schools, while 77 per cent of primary Indigenous students with high family incomes, and 73 per cent of secondary Indigenous students with high family incomes attend government schools.

Tables 7.1 and 7.2 provide data for each State and Territory, primary and secondary levels respectively, on the percentage of Indigenous students in each family income range who attend government, Catholic or other nongovernment schools.

Catholic Indigenous students are, not surprisingly, less likely to attend government schools than are nonCatholic religion (and no religion) Indigenous students. Among both Catholic and nonCatholic Indigenous students, those with high family incomes are much more likely to attend Catholic and other nongovernment schools. Tables 7.3 and 7.4 provide details.

Figure 7.1 graphs the percentages of Indigenous primary and secondary students in each family income range who attend government, Catholic or other nongovernment schools. Figure 7.2 similarly graphs Catholic religion Indigenous primary and secondary students, and Figure 7.3 similarly graphs nonCatholic religion (and no religion) Indigenous primary and secondary students.

Table 7.1 Percentage of Indigenous primary students in each family income range who attend government, Catholic, and other nongovernment schools, Australia and all States and Territories, 2001

	Low family income			Medium family income \$800-\$1499	High family income >\$1500	All family income ranges
	<\$400	\$400-\$599	\$600-\$799			
Australia						
Government schools	91%	89%	89%	85%	77%	88%
Catholic schools	7%	7%	8%	11%	17%	9%
Other nongovt	3%	3%	3%	4%	6%	3%
New South Wales						
Government schools	92%	90%	90%	83%	76%	88%
Catholic schools	6%	7%	8%	13%	17%	9%
Other nongovt	2%	3%	2%	3%	7%	3%
Victoria						
Government schools	92%	91%	88%	85%	78%	88%
Catholic schools	6%	7%	9%	12%	18%	9%
Other nongovt	2%	2%	3%	3%	4%	3%
Queensland						
Government schools	93%	91%	91%	87%	79%	90%
Catholic schools	4%	5%	6%	9%	15%	7%
Other nongovt	3%	3%	4%	4%	6%	4%
Western Australia						
Government schools	86%	84%	86%	82%	76%	84%
Catholic schools	10%	12%	10%	13%	18%	12%
Other nongovt	4%	4%	5%	5%	7%	4%
South Australia						
Government schools	92%	89%	87%	84%	71%	87%
Catholic schools	4%	5%	6%	8%	16%	6%
Other nongovt	5%	6%	7%	8%	13%	7%
Tasmania						
Government schools	91%	90%	87%	81%	64%	86%
Catholic schools	7%	7%	10%	15%	26%	11%
Other nongovt	2%	3%	3%	4%	10%	4%
Northern Territory						
Government schools	88%	88%	86%	89%	86%	88%
Catholic schools	10%	10%	12%	9%	11%	10%
Other nongovt	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	2%
ACT						
Government schools	93%	80%	72%	70%	68%	76%
Catholic schools	7%	16%	23%	26%	32%	21%
Other nongovt	0%	3%	5%	4%	0%	2%

Table 7.2 Percentage of Indigenous secondary students in each family income range who attend government, Catholic, and other nongovernment schools, Australia and all States and Territories, 2001

	Low family income			Medium family income \$800-\$1499	High family income >\$1500	All family income ranges
	<\$400	\$400-\$599	\$600-\$799			
Australia						
Government schools	90%	89%	88%	83%	73%	85%
Catholic schools	6%	7%	8%	12%	18%	9%
Other nongovt	4%	4%	4%	6%	9%	5%
New South Wales						
Government schools	92%	91%	89%	83%	76%	87%
Catholic schools	5%	6%	8%	13%	17%	10%
Other nongovt	3%	2%	2%	3%	7%	3%
Victoria						
Government schools	93%	90%	89%	85%	78%	88%
Catholic schools	5%	5%	7%	12%	18%	9%
Other nongovt	2%	4%	4%	3%	4%	3%
Queensland						
Government schools	90%	90%	88%	87%	79%	90%
Catholic schools	6%	5%	7%	9%	15%	7%
Other nongovt	4%	5%	4%	4%	6%	4%
Western Australia						
Government schools	85%	86%	86%	82%	76%	84%
Catholic schools	10%	9%	8%	13%	18%	12%
Other nongovt	6%	5%	6%	5%	7%	4%
South Australia						
Government schools	94%	87%	91%	84%	71%	87%
Catholic schools	4%	6%	6%	8%	16%	6%
Other nongovt	2%	7%	3%	8%	13%	7%
Tasmania						
Government schools	91%	86%	83%	81%	64%	86%
Catholic schools	5%	9%	13%	15%	26%	11%
Other nongovt	3%	5%	4%	4%	10%	4%
Northern Territory						
Government schools	83%	81%	79%	89%	86%	88%
Catholic schools	8%	9%	10%	9%	11%	10%
Other nongovt	10%	10%	11%	2%	4%	2%
ACT						
Government schools	92%	78%	87%	70%	68%	76%
Catholic schools	8%	22%	13%	26%	32%	21%
Other nongovt	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%	2%

Table 7.3 Percentage of Australian Indigenous primary students - Catholic religion, nonCatholic and all students - in each family income range, who attend government, Catholic or other nongovernment schools, 2001

School type attended	Low family income			Medium family income \$800-\$1499	High family income >\$1500	All family income ranges
	<\$400	\$400-\$599	\$600-\$799			
<i>Catholic religion primary Indigenous students</i>						
Government	76%	75%	73%	66%	55%	70%
Catholic	22%	24%	25%	35%	41%	28%
Other nongovt	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%
<i>NonCatholic religion primary Indigenous students</i>						
Government	95%	94%	94%	88%	81%	93%
Catholic	2%	2%	2%	6%	10%	3%
Other nongovt	3%	4%	4%	7%	10%	4%
<i>All primary Indigenous students</i>						
Government	91%	89%	89%	85%	77%	88%
Catholic	7%	7%	8%	11%	17%	9%
Other nongovt	3%	3%	3%	4%	6%	3%

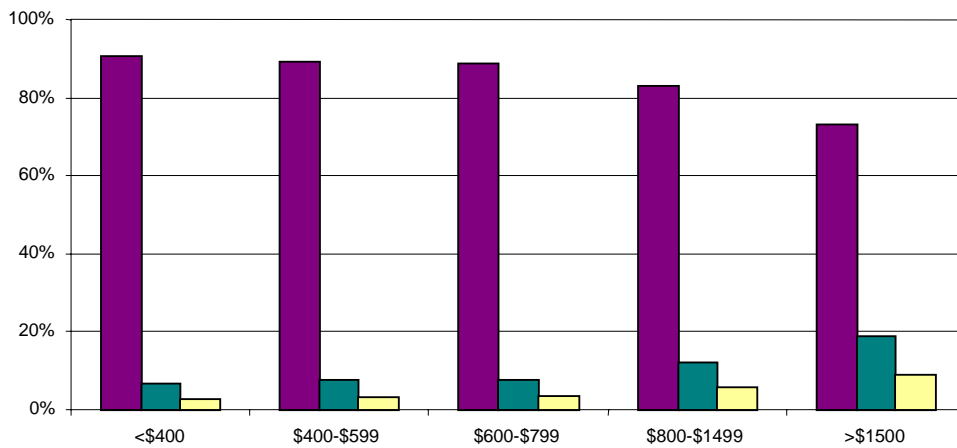
Table 7.4 Percentage of Australian Indigenous secondary students - Catholic religion, nonCatholic and all students - in each family income range who attend government, Catholic or other nongovernment schools, 2001

School type attended	Low family income			Medium family income \$800-\$1499	High family income >\$1500	All family income ranges
	<\$400	\$400-\$599	\$600-\$799			
<i>Catholic religion secondary Indigenous students</i>						
Government	81%	79%	75%	67%	55%	72%
Catholic	17%	19%	23%	30%	39%	25%
Other nongovt	2%	3%	2%	3%	6%	3%
<i>NonCatholic religion secondary Indigenous students</i>						
Government	93%	92%	91%	88%	81%	90%
Catholic	3%	3%	4%	5%	10%	4%
Other nongovt	4%	5%	5%	7%	9%	6%
<i>All secondary Indigenous students</i>						
Government	90%	89%	88%	83%	73%	85%
Catholic	6%	7%	8%	12%	18%	9%
Other nongovt	4%	4%	4%	6%	9%	5%

Figure 7.1 Percentage of Australian Indigenous primary and secondary students in each family income range who attend government, Catholic or other nongovernment schools, 2001

School type attended: Government Catholic Other nongovernment

All Indigenous primary students



All Indigenous secondary students

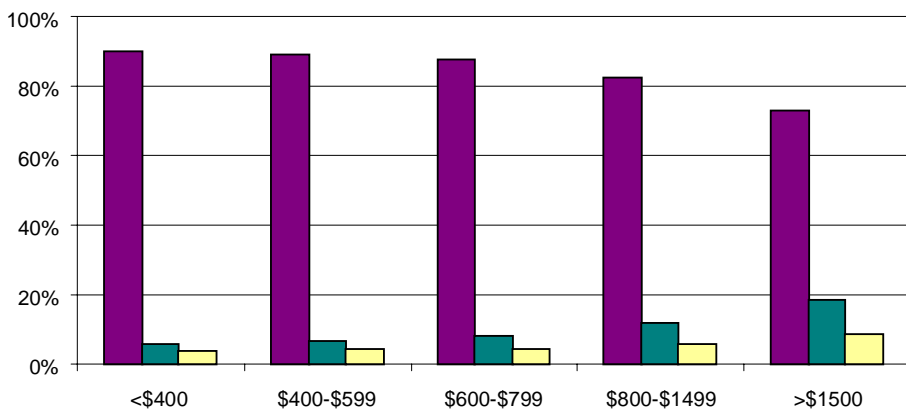
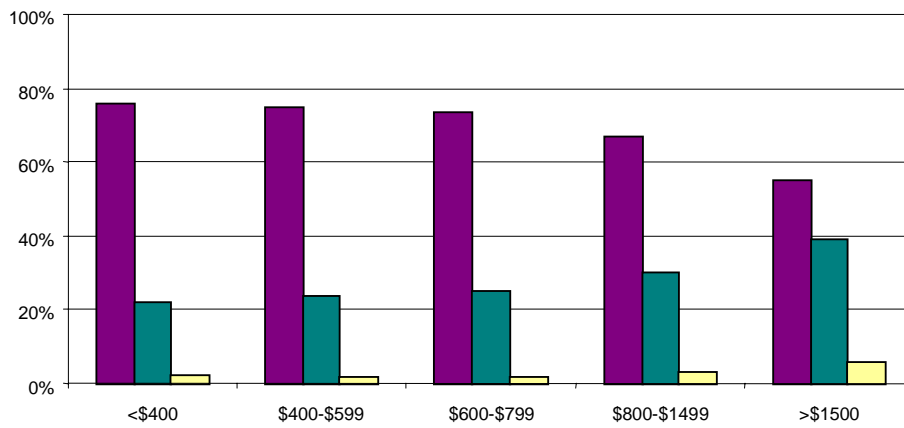


Figure 7.2 Percentage of Indigenous Catholic religion primary and secondary students in each family income range who attend government, Catholic or other nongovernment schools, 2001

School type attended: Government Catholic Other nongovernment

Catholic Indigenous primary students



Catholic Indigenous secondary students

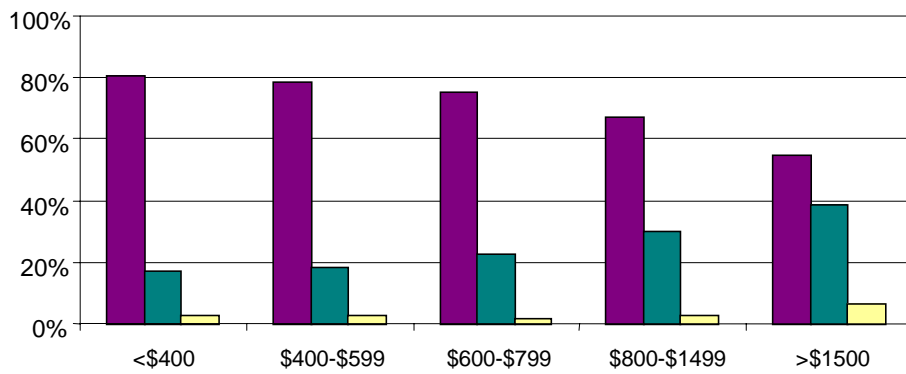
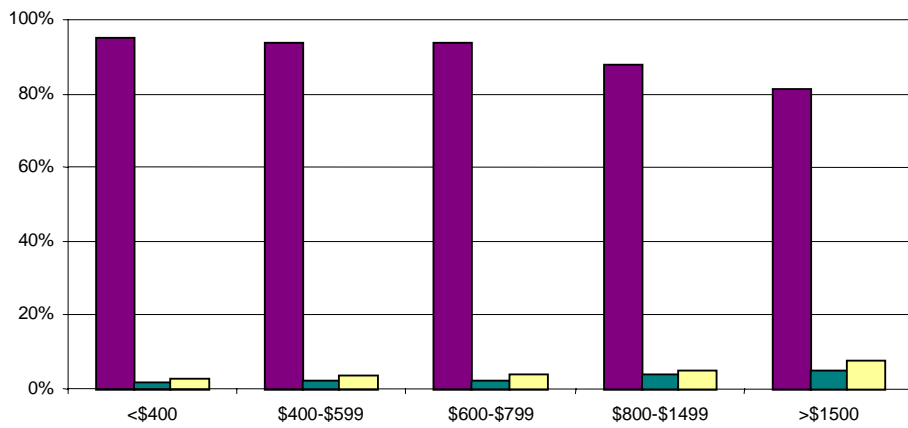


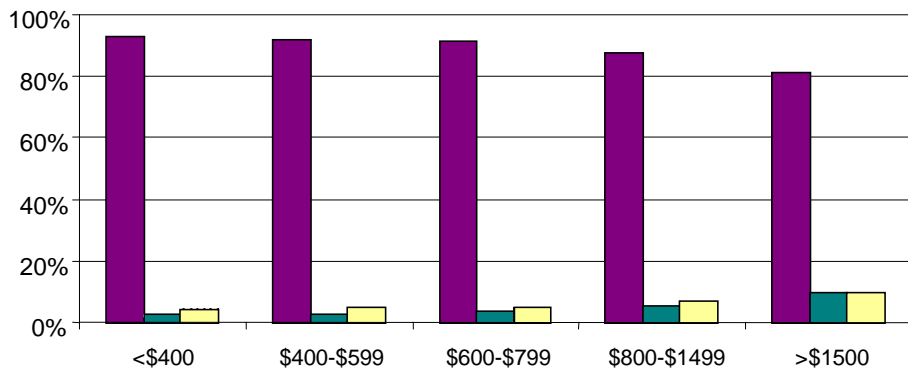
Figure 7.3 Percentage of Indigenous nonCatholic religion and no religion primary and secondary students in each family income range who attend government, Catholic or other nongovernment schools, 2001

School type attended: Government Catholic Other nongovernment

NonCatholic Indigenous primary students



NonCatholic Indigenous secondary students



8. Students in one parent families, and all primary and secondary students, by family income

According to the Census data, around 21 per cent of primary students and 22 per cent of secondary students are in one parent families.

Students in one parent families at both the primary and secondary levels are more than three times as likely as other students to have very low family incomes of less than \$400 a week. This income range is the usual family income range of one parent families on public benefits and no other significant sources of income. (Large families on benefits may have higher family incomes.) Students in one parent families at both the primary and secondary levels are only around one tenth as likely as other students to have high family incomes

Tables 8.1 and 8.2 provide details for each State and Territory. The patterns are generally similar between the States and Territories.

Table 8.1 Percentage in each family income range, primary students in one parent families and all primary students, Australia and all States and Territories, 2001

	Low family income			Medium family income \$800-\$1499	High family income >\$1500	All family income ranges
	<\$400	\$400-\$599	\$600-\$799			
Australia						
One parent family	39%	34%	13%	12%	2%	100%
All	12%	14%	13%	37%	24%	100%
New South Wales						
One parent family	40%	33%	13%	12%	3%	100%
All	12%	14%	12%	35%	27%	100%
Victoria						
One parent family	38%	34%	14%	12%	2%	100%
All	11%	13%	13%	38%	25%	100%
Queensland						
One parent family	37%	37%	14%	11%	2%	100%
All	12%	16%	15%	38%	19%	100%
Western Australia						
One parent family	40%	34%	13%	11%	2%	100%
All	12%	14%	13%	38%	23%	100%
South Australia						
One parent family	41%	35%	13%	10%	1%	100%
All	13%	16%	14%	39%	18%	100%
Tasmania						
One parent family	44%	36%	12%	8%	1%	100%
All	14%	18%	17%	37%	14%	100%
Northern Territory						
One parent family	38%	27%	14%	18%	3%	100%
All	16%	15%	11%	33%	26%	100%
ACT						
One parent family	32%	25%	16%	23%	4%	100%
All	8%	8%	9%	34%	41%	100%

Table 8.2 Percentage in each family income range, secondary students in one parent families and all secondary students, Australia and all States and Territories, 2001

	Low family income			Medium family income \$800-\$1499	High family income >\$1500	All family income ranges
	<\$400	\$400-\$599	\$600-\$799			
Australia						
One parent family	28%	29%	17%	21%	4%	100%
All	9%	13%	12%	36%	31%	100%
New South Wales						
One parent family	29%	28%	17%	21%	5%	100%
All	9%	12%	11%	34%	34%	100%
Victoria						
One parent family	27%	29%	18%	21%	4%	100%
All	9%	12%	12%	36%	31%	100%
Queensland						
One parent family	28%	32%	18%	19%	3%	100%
All	10%	14%	13%	37%	26%	100%
Western Australia						
One parent family	29%	30%	17%	20%	3%	100%
All	10%	12%	11%	37%	30%	100%
South Australia						
One parent family	29%	31%	18%	19%	3%	100%
All	10%	14%	13%	37%	25%	100%
Tasmania						
One parent family	32%	32%	17%	17%	2%	100%
All	11%	16%	14%	37%	22%	100%
Northern Territory						
One parent family	27%	23%	17%	27%	5%	100%
All	11%	12%	11%	32%	35%	100%
ACT						
One parent family	20%	19%	16%	36%	9%	100%
All	6%	7%	7%	29%	51%	100%

9. Students in one parent families, family income and type of school attended

Like other groups reported on in other sections, students in one parent families are much more likely to attend government schools if the family income is low, especially if it is in the very low ranges of families solely reliant on public benefits. Catholic school attendance is most likely for students in single parent families in the medium family income range, and attendance at other nongovernment schools is most likely for students in single income families in the high income range.

Table 9.1 and Figure 9.1 provide details.

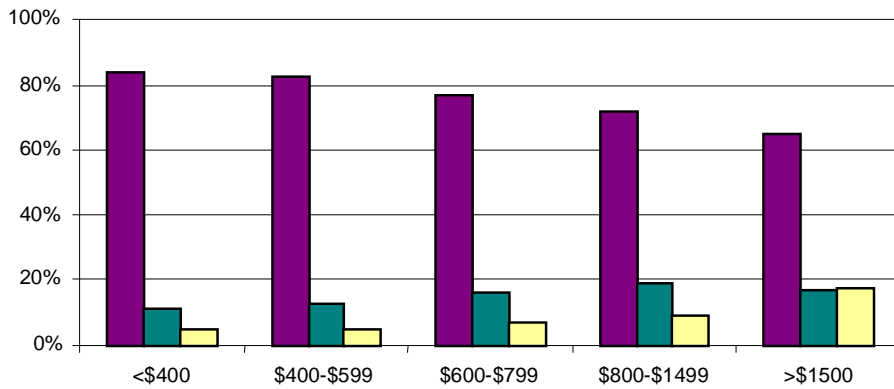
Table 9.1 Percentage of primary and secondary students in one parent families in each family income range, who attend government, Catholic or other nongovernment schools, 2001

School type attended	Low family income			Medium family income	High family income	All family income ranges
	<\$400	\$400-\$599	\$600-\$799	\$800-\$1499	>\$1500	
Primary students						
Government	84%	82%	77%	72%	65%	81%
Catholic	11%	12%	16%	19%	17%	13%
Other nongovt	5%	5%	7%	9%	18%	6%
Secondary students						
Government	80%	79%	72%	65%	51%	74%
Catholic	12%	14%	18%	21%	22%	16%
Other nongovt	8%	8%	10%	15%	27%	10%

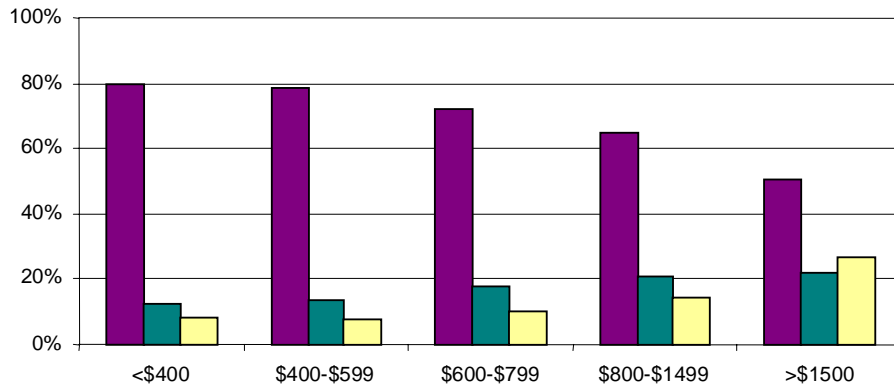
Figure 9.1 Percentage of primary and secondary students in one parent families in each family income range who attend government, Catholic or other nongovernment schools, 2001

School type attended: Government Catholic Other nongovernment

Primary students in one parent families



Secondary students in one parent families



10. Summary comparisons between different groups

Whatever their family income range, Indigenous students are much more likely to attend government schools than are all Australian students.

The greater tendency of Indigenous students to attend government schools is most apparent at the high family income range and at the secondary level.

Students in one parent families are also more likely to attend government schools, whatever their family income range (except the ranges \$600-\$1499 at the secondary level) - but only marginally so.

Table 10.1 and Figure 10.1 provide details. Note that the high proportions of both Indigenous students and students in one parent families who have low family incomes accounts in large part for the higher proportions of students from those groups in 'all family income ranges' who attend government schools. This is most apparent for students in one parent families, who are generally only marginally more likely to attend government schools than are all students in each family income range.

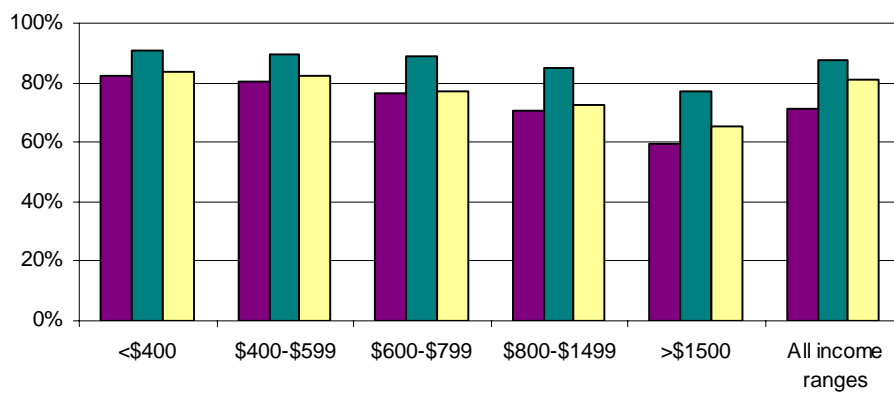
Table 10.1 Percentage attending government schools: all primary students, Indigenous primary students, and primary students in one parent families; all secondary students, secondary Indigenous students, and secondary students in one parent families, in each family income range, 2001

	Low family income			Medium family income \$800-\$1499	High family income >\$1500	All family income ranges
	<\$400	\$400-\$599	\$600-\$799			
Primary students						
All students	82%	80%	77%	71%	59%	72%
Indigenous students	91%	89%	89%	83%	77%	88%
Students in one parent families	84%	82%	77%	72%	65%	81%
Secondary students						
All students	78%	77%	74%	67%	48%	64%
Indigenous students	90%	89%	88%	83%	73%	85%
Students in one parent families	80%	79%	72%	65%	51%	74%

Figure 10.3 Percentage attending government schools: all primary students, Indigenous primary students, and primary students in one parent families; all secondary students, secondary Indigenous students, and secondary students in one parent families, in each family income range, 2001

Student group: All students Indigenous students Students in one parent families

Primary students



Secondary students

