

The social make-up of schools

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

A report prepared for the Australian Education Union

Barbara Preston

Barbara Preston Research

21 Boobiulla Street

O'CONNOR ACT 2602

barbara.preston@netspeed.com.au

October 2007

Introduction

This report is in part an update of a paper based on Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 Census data prepared for the Australian Education Union (AEU) by the author, and published by the AEU in December 2003 (Preston 2003).

Analyses in this report are based on ABS 2006 Census 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 (ABS 2007a). Unless otherwise indicated, these custom tables are the source for tables and figures. Appendix 1 provides detail on data and definitions - notably that the LOW, MEDIUM and HIGH family income ranges are defined in such a way that around one third of all Australian school students are in each category.

The analyses are of broad-brush data on the social make-up of schools in the different sectors and levels, 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 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 further relevant information and positions on ends and values.

At the end of this section the numbers of students in the various major categories considered in this report are tabulated. In Table 1.1 are all primary and secondary students, Indigenous students, students in one parent families, and students of Catholic and Islamic religions, by states and territories. In Table 1.2 are all students, Indigenous students, students in one parent families, and students of Catholic and Islamic religions, by type of school attended (government, Catholic, other nongovernment).

Also included at the end of this section are tables that may assist with interpretation of current and historical data in the analyses. Table 1.3 presents data from the ABS *Schools* census (Cat. No. 4221.0), the number and percentage of students in government and nongovernment schools in each state and territory, each ABS Census year, 1986 to 2006. Table 1.4 presents more data for primary and secondary levels, government, Catholic and other nongovernment sectors, 1996 and 2006, with the share of all students held by each sector, and the percentage change in enrolment numbers in each sector and each level between 1996 and 2006.

Following are the headings and an indication of the content of the sections of this report. In each section there is commentary, tables and, usually, graphs (for clarity, the colour schemes of the graphs differ between those concerned with school type, family income and religion as the key variable).

School type and family income of students (Section 2, page 6)

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 (for example, 40% of government schools students have LOW family incomes, and 27% of government school students have HIGH family incomes). Details for each of the states and territories are provided, and comparisons made between and within states and territories. There is also an investigation of trends in the data from previous Censuses since 1991.

Family income and type of school attended (Section 3, page 12)

This section looks at students 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 (for example, 77% of all students with LOW family incomes and 53% of all students with HIGH family incomes attend government schools).

Religion, family income and type of school attended (Section 4, page 14)

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

Indigenous students and family income (Section 5, page 18)

This section looks at Indigenous at the primary and secondary levels in each state and territory according to family income.

Indigenous students, type of school attended and family income (Section 6, page 19)

This section looks at 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, and type of school attended (Section 7, page 21)

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

Indigenous students, religion, family income, and type of school attended (Section 8, page 23)

This section looks at Indigenous students of Catholic and nonCatholic or no religion, according to family income and type of school attended.

Students in one parent families, type of school attended and family income (Section 9, page 25)

This section looks at the proportion of students in one parent families in each school sector at primary and secondary levels who are in each family income range

Students in one parent families, family income, and type of school attended (Section 10, page 26)

In this looks at the proportion of students in one parent families in each family income range who attend government, Catholic or other nongovernment schools.

Table 1. 1. All students, Indigenous students, students in one parent families, Catholic students and Islamic students, by states, territories and Australia, 2006

	All students		Indigenous		One parent family		Catholic religion		Islamic religion	
	Number	% of Australia	Number	% of all students in state/territory	Number	% of all students in state/territory	Number	% of all students in state/territory	Number	% of all students in state/territory
Australia	2 492 871	100%	87 766	4%	537 711	22%	748 779	30%	56 393	2%
NSW	828 045	33%	28 919	3%	176 027	21%	277 115	33%	28 695	3%
Vic	621 122	25%	5 970	1%	125 281	20%	195 104	31%	17 847	3%
Qld	487 796	20%	25 093	5%	112 815	23%	136 124	28%	3 071	1%
WA	234 839	9%	10 094	4%	49 750	21%	64 195	27%	4 068	2%
SA	192 253	8%	4 991	3%	44 216	23%	42 967	22%	1 720	1%
Tas	61 994	2%	3 723	6%	14 719	24%	12 890	21%	153	0%
NT	23 945	1%	8 091	34%	6 078	25%	6 107	26%	188	1%
ACT	42 877	2%	885	2%	8 825	21%	14 277	33%	651	2%

Table 1. 2. All students, Indigenous students, students in one parent families, Catholic students and Islamic students, in government, Catholic, other nongovernmental and all schools, Australia, 2006

	All students		Indigenous		One parent family		Catholic religion		Islamic religion	
	Number	% of all students in all schools	Number	% of all students in sector who are Indigenous	Number	% of all students in sector who are from one parent families	Number	% of all students in sector who are Catholic	Number	% of all students in sector who are Islamic
All schools	2 492 871	100%	87 766	4%	537 711	22%	748 779	30%	56 393	2%
Government	1 641 378	66%	74 816	5%	409 002	25%	307 322	19%	42 890	3%
Catholic	518 378	21%	8 549	2%	79 903	15%	393 721	76%	1 690	0%
Other nongovernment	333 115	13%	4 401	1%	48 806	15%	47 736	14%	11 813	4%

Table 1. 3. Number of students in government and nongovernment schools and share of total, states and territories and Australia, ABS Census years, 1986 to 2006

	NSW		Vic		Qld		SA		WA		Tas		NT		ACT		Australia	
	no	% of total	no	% of total	no	% of total	no	% of total	no	% of total	no	% of total	no	% of total	no	% of total	no	% of total
Government																		
1986	755 257	74%	546 136	69%	374 329	76%	192 489	78%	207 436	77%	66 050	79%	26 288	84%	39 816	66%	2 207 801	74%
1991	746 417	72%	533 386	68%	398 025	75%	186 814	76%	218 871	76%	65 662	77%	27 161	81%	40 890	66%	2 217 226	72%
1996	760 078	71%	517 062	67%	411 686	73%	177 504	72%	224 714	73%	62 776	75%	27 766	78%	39 971	65%	2 221 557	71%
2001	755 246	69%	532 258	66%	435 095	71%	172 840	69%	224 296	70%	61 976	75%	28 538	77%	37 970	63%	2 248 219	69%
2006	739 307	67%	536 117	65%	455 075	69%	163 848	66%	230 293	67%	60 007	73%	28 506	76%	35 076	59%	2 248 229	67%
Non-government																		
1986	270 718	26%	250 396	31%	116 831	24%	52 788	22%	60 255	23%	17 459	21%	4 952	16%	20 189	34%	793 588	26%
1991	290 896	28%	256 127	32%	132 791	25%	60 019	24%	70 985	24%	19 952	23%	6 284	19%	20 857	34%	857 911	28%
1996	305 269	29%	259 393	33%	155 448	27%	68 701	28%	82 092	27%	21 406	25%	7 741	22%	21 408	35%	921 458	29%
2001	343 923	31%	277 107	34%	175 715	29%	76 656	31%	94 599	30%	20 821	25%	8 464	23%	22 673	37%	1 019 958	31%
2006	369 640	33%	293 718	35%	202 041	31%	86 078	34%	112 349	33%	22 447	27%	9 074	24%	24 460	41%	1 119 807	33%
Total																		
1986	1 025 975	100%	796 532	100%	491 160	100%	245 277	100%	267 691	100%	83 509	100%	31 240	100%	60 005	100%	3 001 389	100%
1991	1 037 313	100%	789 513	100%	530 816	100%	246 833	100%	289 856	100%	85 614	100%	33 445	100%	61 747	100%	3 075 137	100%
1996	1 065 347	100%	776 455	100%	567 134	100%	246 205	100%	306 806	100%	84 182	100%	35 507	100%	61 379	100%	3 143 015	100%
2001	1 099 169	100%	809 365	100%	610 810	100%	249 496	100%	318 895	100%	82 797	100%	37 002	100%	60 643	100%	3 268 177	100%
2006	1 108 947	100%	829 835	100%	657 116	100%	249 926	100%	342 642	100%	82 454	100%	37 580	100%	59 536	100%	3 368 036	100%

Source ABS Schools 4221.0 (ABS 2007b), Table 6, p. 12

Table 1. 4. Number of students in government, Catholic, other nongovernment and all nongovernment primary, secondary and all levels and share of total, Australia, 1996 and 2006, and percentage change 1996 to 2006

	Government		Catholic	Other nongovernment		All nongovernment		Total	
	no.	% of total	no.	% of total	no.	% of total	no.		% of total
1996									
Primary	1 367 406	74%	349 892	19%	130 871	7%	480 763	26%	1 848 169
Secondary	854 151	66%	265 680	21%	175 015	14%	440 695	34%	1 294 846
All levels	2 221 557	71%	615 572	20%	305 886	10%	921 458	29%	3 143 015
2006									
Primary	1 366 259	71%	370 826	19%	199 033	10%	569 859	29%	1 936 118
Secondary	88 1970	62%	308 582	22%	241 366	17%	549 948	38%	1 431 918
All levels	2 248 229	67%	679 408	20%	440 399	13%	1 119 807	33%	3 368 036
% change 1996 to 2006									
Primary	-0.1%	-	6.0%	-	52.1%	-	18.5%	-	4.8%
Secondary	3.3%	-	16.1%	-	37.9%	-	24.8%	-	10.6%
All levels	1.2%	-	10.4%	-	44.0%	-	21.5%	-	7.2%

Source: ABS *Schools* 1996 & 2006 (4221.0) (ABS 1997 & 2007b)

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. Patterns of family incomes have implications for the levels of resourcing that schools require to provide equivalent levels of education to individual students (for example, to provide the diverse welfare and other support that low income students need to a greater extent than do high income students, and to match the financial and other resources that higher income families can provide for their children and their schools). Patterns of family income also have a major impact on the learning outcomes of students that are out of the control of the school or sector (because of the resources and educationally enriching and motivating experiences that higher income families can often provide, but which are difficult for lower income families).

Table 2.1 and Figure 2.1 provide details for Australia as a whole on the percentage of students in each school sector (government, Catholic and other nongovernment) whose families are in the LOW, MEDIUM and HIGH income ranges (each range including around a third of all Australian schools students – 34%, 32% and 34% respectively). Note that a higher percentage of all *primary* students are in LOW income families (36%) compared with the percentage of *secondary* students in LOW income families (32%). Conversely, a lower percentage of all primary students are in HIGH income families (31%) compared with the percentage of secondary students in HIGH income families (37%) – likely reasons for this are discussed in Appendix 1. Figures are also provided in Table 2.1 for sub-ranges within the LOW income range.

Table 2.1 Percentage of students in each of government, Catholic and other nongovernment sectors, primary, secondary and all schools with low, medium or high family incomes, Australia, 2006

	Family income (per week)						All income levels
	<\$350	\$350-\$649	\$650-\$999	LOW All <\$1000	MEDIUM \$1000-\$1699	HIGH >\$1700	
Primary schools							
Government	8%	15%	17%	40%	34%	26%	100%
Catholic	5%	9%	12%	26%	34%	39%	100%
Other nongovernment	5%	9%	11%	24%	28%	48%	100%
All primary schools	7%	13%	15%	36%	33%	31%	100%
Secondary schools							
Government	8%	15%	16%	39%	33%	28%	100%
Catholic	4%	8%	11%	23%	31%	47%	100%
Other nongovernment	4%	7%	9%	19%	23%	57%	100%
All secondary schools	6%	12%	14%	32%	31%	37%	100%
All schools							
Government	8%	15%	16%	40%	33%	27%	100%
Catholic	4%	8%	12%	25%	33%	43%	100%
Other nongovernment	4%	8%	10%	22%	26%	53%	100%
All schools	7%	13%	15%	34%	32%	34%	100%

In government schools 40% of students are in LOW income families. In contrast, in Catholic schools, only 25% of students are in LOW income families, and in other nongovernment secondary schools only 22% of students are in LOW income families. The difference is even greater for those students in very LOW income families (a weekly income of less than \$350 or less than \$650) where the percentage in government schools is around twice the percentage in either Catholic or other nongovernment schools.

Conversely, barely a quarter of all government school students are in HIGH income families, while over half the students in other nongovernment schools are in HIGH income families, with the Catholic sector closer to the other nongovernment sector than to the government sector.

Data for all schools (primary and secondary combined) for each sector in each state and territory is provided in Table 2.2. This table also provides statistics on the ratio between the percentages of students in LOW and HIGH income families for each sector, and on the ratio between the percentage of students in LOW and HIGH income families indexed to the ratio for each state and territory for both 2006 and 2001¹. 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 jurisdictions, Tasmania, Northern Territory and South Australia, have a significantly higher percentage of students (in all school sectors) in LOW income families - respectively 41%, 37% and 37%, while the national figure is 34%. Tasmania is also the jurisdiction where the government sector has the highest percentage of students in LOW income families (48%) relative to all other sectors and states and territories.

Indexing the ratio of students in LOW to HIGH income families in each sector to that of all students in the jurisdiction clarifies patterns of family income within each sector relative to other sectors in the jurisdiction. Similarly indexed ratios are provided for 2001 as well as 2006, and thus possible changes over the five years can be investigated.

Between 2001 and 2006, the government sector nationally has increased the ratio of students with LOW to HIGH family incomes (though in Victoria and Queensland the trend was in the opposite direction).

Table 2.2 also provides some indication of the magnitude of the spread of family incomes in states and sectors by the percentage of students in MEDIUM income families. Tasmania and South Australia have substantially higher percentages of students in MEDIUM income families in all sectors, while in Queensland the government and other nongovernment sectors have higher percentages of students in MEDIUM income families. New South Wales has the smallest percentage of students in MEDIUM income families in all sectors. (The two territories also have small percentages of students in MEDIUM income families – in the ACT a much larger proportion are in HIGH income families, and data problems, including a significant undercounting of Indigenous students, may explain the relatively large percentage of NT students purportedly in HIGH income families.)

¹ Figures for 2001 derived from ABS 2001 Census custom tables used for Preston (2003).

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, 2006

		Family income			Ratio low to high family income*	Ratio, low to high family income, indexed to all schools in state*	
		LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH		2006	2001
		<\$1000	\$1000-\$1699	>\$1700			
NSW	Government	40%	31%	29%	1.4	1.4	1.4
	Catholic	25%	31%	44%	0.6	0.6	0.6
	Other nongovernment	22%	23%	55%	0.4	0.4	0.4
	All NSW schools	35%	30%	35%	1.0	1.0	1.0
Vic.	Government	39%	34%	26%	1.5	1.4	1.5
	Catholic	27%	35%	38%	0.7	0.7	0.7
	Other nongovernment	21%	24%	56%	0.4	0.4	0.3
	All Victorian schools	34%	33%	33%	1.0	1.0	1.0
Qld	Government	40%	36%	24%	1.7	1.5	1.6
	Catholic	21%	33%	45%	0.5	0.4	0.4
	Other nongovernment	22%	29%	49%	0.4	0.4	0.4
	All Qld schools	34%	35%	31%	1.1	1.0	1.0
WA	Government	36%	33%	31%	1.2	1.4	1.4
	Catholic	23%	31%	46%	0.5	0.6	0.6
	Other nongovernment	21%	25%	54%	0.4	0.5	0.4
	All WA schools	31%	32%	37%	0.8	1.0	1.0
SA	Government	44%	36%	21%	2.1	1.5	1.5
	Catholic	27%	35%	37%	0.7	0.5	0.5
	Other nongovernment	25%	32%	43%	0.6	0.4	0.4
	All SA schools	37%	35%	28%	1.4	1.0	1.0
Tas	Government	48%	36%	17%	2.9	1.6	1.6
	Catholic	26%	39%	35%	0.8	0.4	0.5
	Other nongovernment	27%	29%	44%	0.6	0.3	0.3
	All Tasmanian schools	41%	36%	23%	1.8	1.0	1.0
NT	Government	41%	28%	30%	1.4	1.3	1.2
	Catholic	31%	26%	43%	0.7	0.7	0.6
	Other nongovernment	20%	23%	57%	0.3	0.3	0.4
	All NT schools	37%	27%	35%	1.1	1.0	1.0
ACT	Government	24%	27%	49%	0.5	1.4	1.4
	Catholic	13%	23%	64%	0.2	0.6	0.6
	Other nongovernment	10%	16%	74%	0.1	0.4	0.4
	All ACT schools	19%	25%	56%	0.3	1.0	1.0
Australia	Government	40%	33%	27%	1.5	1.5	1.4
	Catholic	25%	33%	43%	0.6	0.6	0.6
	Other nongovernment	22%	26%	53%	0.4	0.4	0.3
	All Australian schools	34%	32%	34%	1.0	1.0	1.0

* The higher the ratio the greater the percentage of students in low income families, the lower the ratio the greater the percentage of students in high income families. See Box 2.1.

Indigenous students are significantly undercounted in this data, therefore NT figures, especially, may substantially understate the percentage of students in LOW income families. See Appendix 1.

Box 2.1. Notes on ratios in Tables 2.2 and 2.3, and Figure 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 percentage 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 HIGH and LOW family income categories. Where the number is greater than 1.0 there is a larger percentage of students in LOW income families, and the larger the number the greater the percentage of students in LOW income families relative to the percentage in HIGH income families. Where the number is less than 1.0 there is a larger percentage of students in HIGH income families, and the smaller the number, the greater the percentage of students in HIGH income families relative to the percentage in LOW 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 1.0 indicates that there are approximately equal percentages of students from LOW income families relative to the percentage from HIGH income families. This is to be expected: the family income ranges were selected because approximately one third of all Australian school students were in each of LOW, MEDIUM and HIGH family income ranges – see Appendix 1.)

Ratio LOW to HIGH family income, indexed to all schools. This statistic controls for the differences *between* states and territories in the percentages of students with LOW and HIGH family incomes. Thus the ratio for ‘all schools’ in each state and territory is 1.0. This also allows comparisons between 2001 and 2006 – comparisons with unindexed figures are difficult because the overall percentages in each of the LOW, MEDIUM and HIGH categories were different.

Data from the four ABS Censuses from 1991 to 2006 gives a broad indication of trends in the patterns of family income in government and nongovernment primary and secondary schools (Catholic and other nongovernment schools have not been separated in all Censuses, so are here combined). Table 2.3 and Figure 2.2 show the ratios of the percentages of students with LOW to HIGH family incomes, government and nongovernment schools, indexed to the ratio for all primary and all secondary schools in each year (see Box 2.1 for an explanation of the ratios).

The general trend since 1991 has been for government schools to show a significant increase in the percentage of students in LOW income families relative to the percentage in HIGH income families, and for nongovernment schools to show an opposite trend.

Table 2.3 Ratio of the percentages of students with LOW family incomes to the percentage with HIGH family incomes*, primary and secondary, government and nongovernment schools, 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006

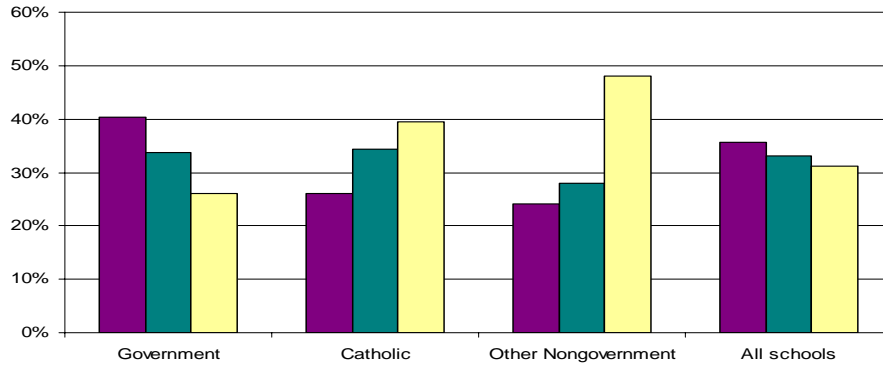
	Primary schools			Secondary schools		
	Government	Nongovernment	All schools	Government	Nongovernment	All schools
1991	1.20	0.57	1.00	1.33	0.52	1.00
1996	1.21	0.59	1.00	1.34	0.54	1.00
2001	1.35	0.50	1.00	1.58	0.46	1.00
2006	1.35	0.52	1.00	1.62	0.48	1.00

* Indexed to the ratio for all primary and all secondary schools in each year. This controls for differences between the Censuses in the percentages of all primary and all secondary students in the LOW and HIGH family income ranges. Source: ABS Census custom tables.

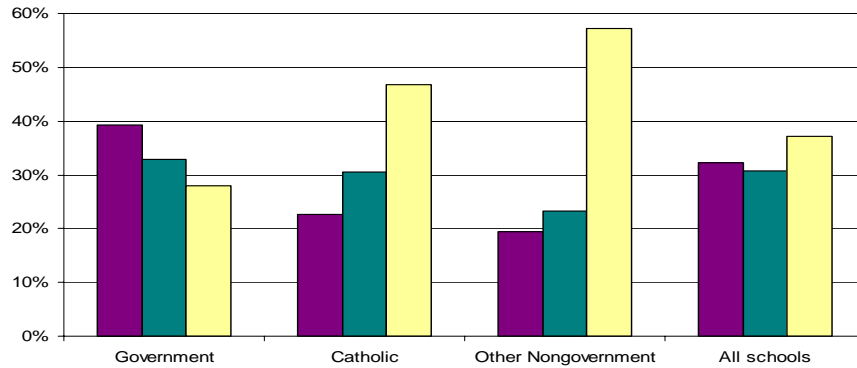
Figure 2.1. Percentage of students in each of Australian government, Catholic and other nongovernment primary and secondary schools with low, medium or high family incomes, 2006

Family income level:
 Low (< \$1000/wk) Medium (\$1000-\$1699/wk) High (>\$1700/wk)

Primary schools



Secondary schools



All schools (primary & secondary)

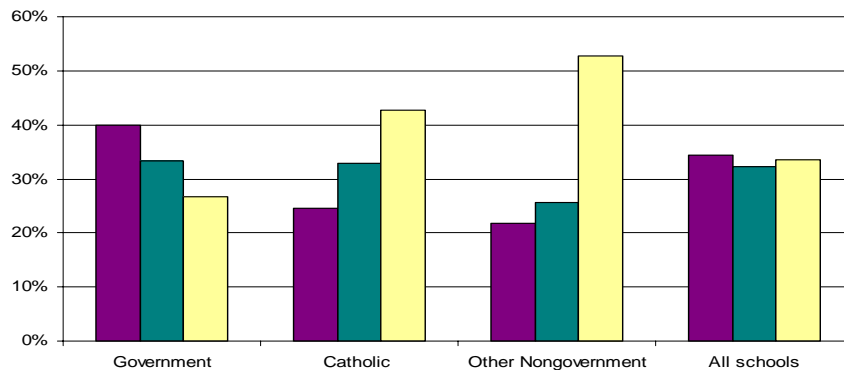
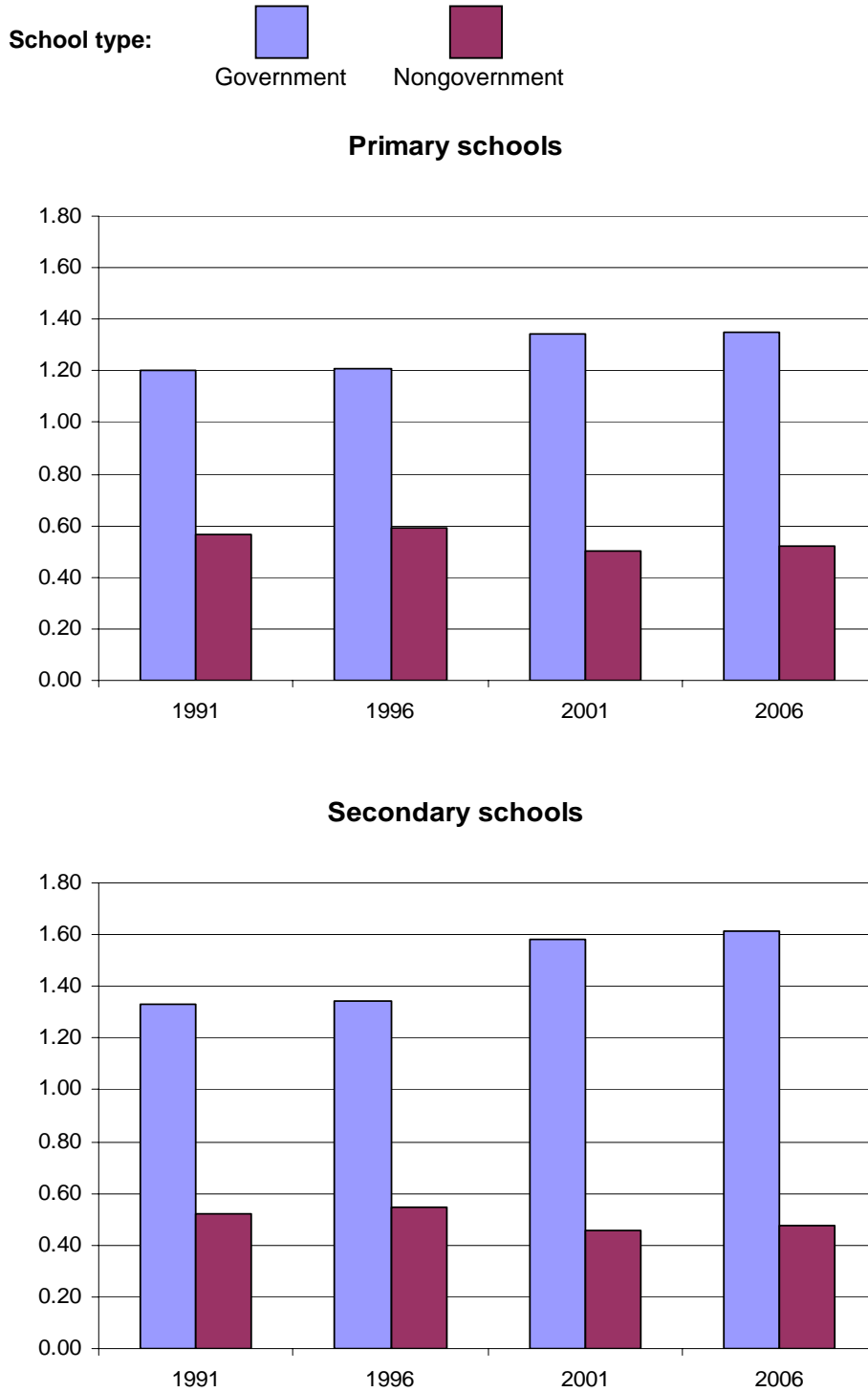


Figure 2.2. Ratio of the percentage of students with LOW income families to the percentage of students with HIGH income families*, government and nongovernment, primary and secondary schools, 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006

* Indexed to ratio for all primary and all secondary students in each year.



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 (69%) of primary school students in all family income ranges attend government schools. However, 78% of primary students with LOW family incomes attend government schools, while just 58% 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 74% of secondary students in LOW income families attend government schools, fewer than half of the secondary students (46%) in HIGH income families attend government schools.

Attendance at both Catholic and other nongovernment schools shows a reverse pattern, which is more pronounced for other nongovernment schools than Catholic schools, and at the secondary level. While just 10% of secondary students in LOW income families attend other nongovernment schools, more than a quarter of secondary students in HIGH income families attend other nongovernment schools.

Table 3.1 and Figure 3.1 provide details.

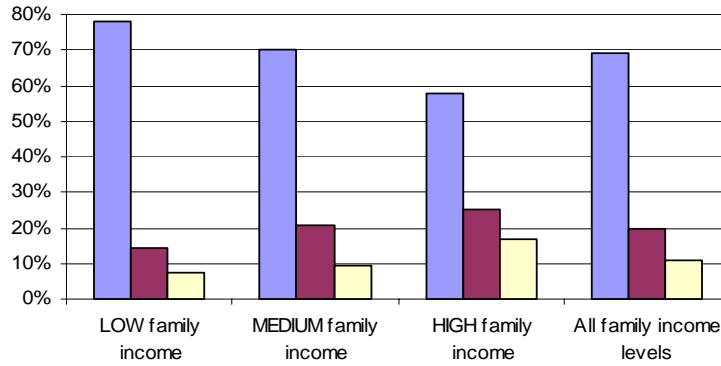
Table 3.1 Percentage of primary, secondary and all students in each family income range who attend government, Catholic and other nongovernment schools, Australia, 2006

	Family income (per week)						All income levels
	< \$350	\$350-\$649	\$650-\$999	LOW <\$1000	MEDIUM \$1000-\$1699	HIGH > \$1700	
<i>Type of school attended by primary students in each family income range</i>							
Government	80%	80%	76%	78%	70%	58%	69%
Catholic	13%	13%	16%	15%	21%	25%	20%
Other nongovernment	7%	7%	8%	7%	9%	17%	11%
All primary schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<i>Type of school attended by secondary students in each family income range</i>							
Government	75%	77%	72%	74%	65%	46%	61%
Catholic	14%	14%	17%	16%	22%	29%	22%
Other Non Government	12%	9%	11%	10%	13%	26%	17%
All secondary schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<i>Type of school attended by all (primary and secondary) students in each family income range</i>							
Government	78%	78%	74%	77%	68%	53%	66%
Catholic	14%	14%	17%	15%	21%	26%	21%
Other Non Government	9%	8%	9%	9%	11%	21%	13%
All schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

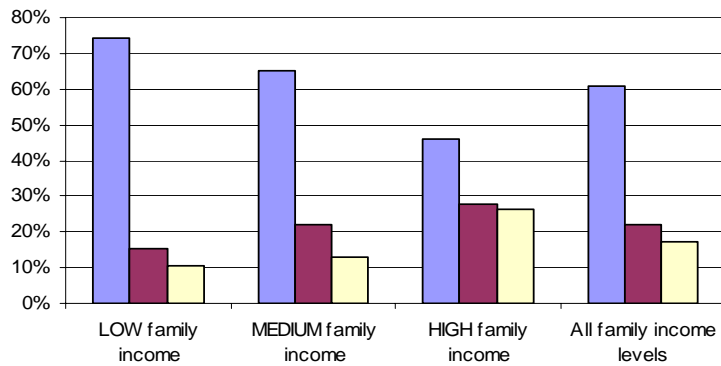
Figure 3.1 Percentage of Australian primary and secondary students in each family income range who attend government, Catholic or other nongovernment schools, 2006

School type: Government Catholic Other nongovernment

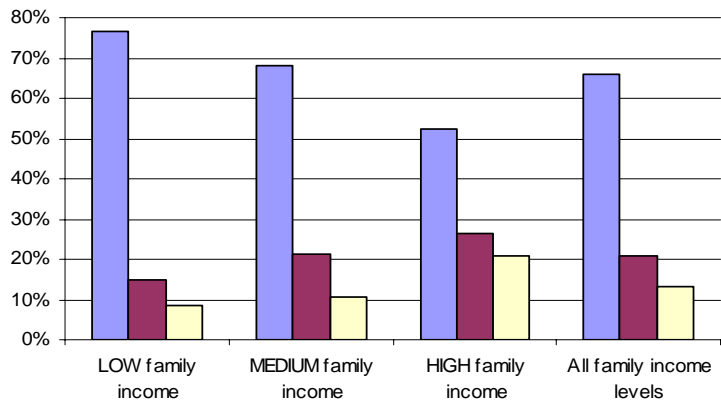
Primary students



Secondary students



All students (primary & secondary)



4. Religion, family income and type of school attended

The previous section was concerned with the type of school attended by primary and secondary students with different family income ranges (data repeated in the first four rows of Tables 4.1 and 4.2). This section is concerned with the type of school attended by primary and secondary students of selected religions who are in different family income ranges.

It is to be expected that students of Catholic religion (who are 30% of all school students – see Table 1.1) are more likely to attend Catholic schools - just over half of both primary and secondary Catholic students attend Catholic schools (53% at both levels), while less than 10% of nonCatholic students attend Catholic schools. (Around 40% of Catholic students attend government schools, and around 7 % attend other nongovernment schools.)

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

Catholic religion students in LOW income families are much less likely to attend Catholic schools than HIGH income Catholic students. At the *primary* school level only 42% of LOW income Catholic religion students (and only 38% of very LOW income Catholic religion students) attend Catholic schools, while 60% of high income Catholic religion students attend Catholic schools. At the *secondary* school level only 40% of LOW income Catholic religion students (and only 35% of very LOW income Catholic religion students) attend Catholic schools, while 62% of high income Catholic religion students attend Catholic schools.

At the *primary* level 54% of LOW family income Catholic students attend government schools, while only 32% of HIGH family income Catholic students attend government schools. Among all other primary students (nonCatholic or no religion students), 87% of those with LOW family incomes attend government schools, and 72% of those with HIGH family incomes attend government schools - a lesser difference than for Catholic religion students, however it is measured. The pattern for attendance at other (non-Catholic) nongovernment schools parallels this: only 3% of LOW income Catholic religion students attend other nongovernment schools, and 8% of HIGH family income Catholic religion students attend other nongovernment schools. Among all other primary students (nonCatholic or no religion students), 5% of those with LOW family incomes attend other nongovernment schools, and 7% of those with HIGH family incomes attend other nongovernment schools – again, 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 (55%) is almost the same as for primary, while only 26% of high family income Catholic students attend government schools. Among all other secondary students (nonCatholic or no religion students), 81% of those with low family incomes attend government schools, and 56 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 (who are about 2% of all students) at all income levels are much more likely to attend government schools than are Catholic students, though they are less likely to attend government schools than are all other nonCatholic (and 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. Islamic secondary students are more likely to attend government and Catholic schools than Islamic primary students – perhaps indicating the importance of Islamic primary schools.

Tables 4.1 and 4.2, and Figure 4.1 provide details.

Table 4.1. Primary students of selected religions, type of school attended by family income range, Australia 2006

Type of school attended	Family income range						All income levels
	<\$350	\$350-\$649	\$650-\$999	LOW < \$1,000	MEDIUM \$1,000-\$1,699	HIGH \$1,700 or more	
All students (all religions and no religion)							
Government	80%	80%	76%	78%	70%	58%	69%
Catholic	13%	13%	16%	15%	21%	25%	20%
Other nongovernment	7%	7%	8%	7%	9%	17%	11%
All schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Catholic religion students							
Government	58%	56%	51%	54%	43%	32%	42%
Catholic	38%	41%	46%	42%	53%	60%	53%
Other nongovernment	4%	3%	3%	3%	4%	8%	5%
All schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Islamic religion students							
Government	79%	77%	75%	77%	73%	69%	75%
Catholic	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	4%	2%
Other nongovernment	19%	21%	23%	21%	25%	27%	23%
All schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Students of all non-Catholic religions and no religion							
Government	87%	87%	86%	87%	82%	72%	81%
Catholic	5%	5%	6%	5%	7%	7%	6%
Other nongovernment	7%	7%	9%	8%	11%	21%	13%
All schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

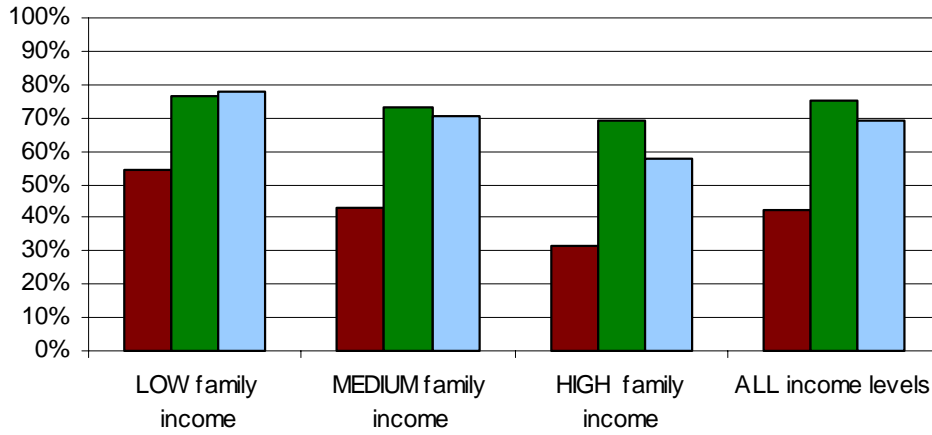
Table 4.2. Secondary students of selected religions, type of school attended by family income range, Australia 2006

Type of school attended	Family income range						All income levels
	<\$350	\$350-\$649	\$650-\$999	LOW < \$1,000	MEDIUM \$1,000-\$1,699	HIGH \$1,700 or more	
<i>All students (all religions and no religion)</i>							
Government	75%	76%	72%	74%	65%	46%	61%
Catholic	14%	14%	17%	16%	22%	28%	22%
Other nongovernment	12%	9%	11%	10%	13%	26%	17%
All schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<i>Catholic religion students</i>							
Government	58%	58%	51%	55%	43%	26%	39%
Catholic	35%	38%	44%	40%	51%	62%	53%
Other nongovernment	7%	5%	5%	5%	6%	12%	8%
All schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<i>Islamic religion students</i>							
Government	82%	81%	79%	80%	77%	69%	78%
Catholic	4%	3%	4%	3%	4%	7%	4%
Other nongovernment	15%	16%	17%	16%	18%	24%	18%
All schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<i>Students of all nonCatholic religions and no religion</i>							
Government	80%	83%	80%	81%	75%	56%	70%
Catholic	7%	7%	8%	7%	9%	10%	9%
Other nongovernment	13%	10%	13%	12%	16%	34%	21%
All schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

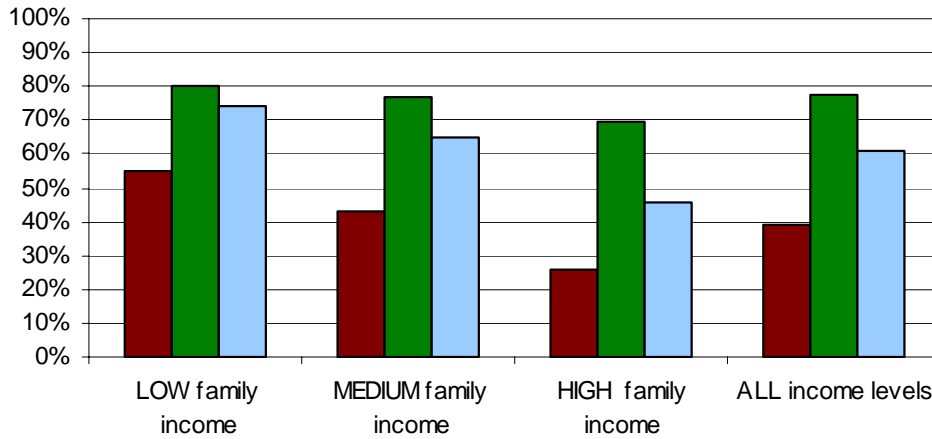
Figure 4.1. Percentage of Australian primary and secondary students of selected religions in each family income range who attend government schools, 2006

Religion of students: ■ Catholic religion ■ Islamic religion ■ All students

Primary students



Secondary students



5. Indigenous students and family income

Indigenous students make up around 4% of all students in Australian schools (see Table 1.1)².

Indigenous students are almost twice as likely as other students to have LOW family incomes (less than \$1,000 a week), and more than twice as likely to have very low family incomes (less than \$350 a week). A family income of less than \$350 a week in 2006 was less than a single parent family with one child could receive from public benefits, yet 16% of Indigenous students were in families in this income range. Nonindigenous students are almost three times as likely as Indigenous students to be in high income families (over \$1700 a week) only 12% of indigenous students are in HIGH income families, while 34% of all students are in HIGH income families..

The patterns are generally similar in the different states and territories once the overall family income patterns of students' family incomes are taken into account (for example, Indigenous students in the ACT generally have higher family incomes than Indigenous students elsewhere, but so do all students in the ACT). See Table 5.1.

Table 5.1 Indigenous students, percentage in each family income range, states and territories and Australia, and all Australian students, percentage in each family income range, Australia, 2006

	Family Income range						All income levels
	<\$350	\$350-\$649	\$650-\$999	LOW <\$1,000	MEDIUM \$1,000-\$1,699	HIGH \$1,700+	
Australia	16%	26%	20%	63%	25%	12%	100%
NSW	18%	27%	19%	65%	23%	12%	100%
Vic	19%	26%	19%	64%	24%	12%	100%
Qld	13%	23%	22%	58%	29%	13%	100%
WA	17%	28%	19%	64%	23%	13%	100%
SA	20%	28%	19%	68%	23%	9%	100%
Tas	13%	23%	24%	60%	30%	10%	100%
NT	15%	32%	21%	68%	21%	11%	100%
ACT	16%	17%	15%	48%	19%	33%	100%
All Australian students	7%	13%	15%	34%	32%	34%	100%

² Indigenous students are undercounted in the data used in these analyses, especially those attending other nongovernment and Catholic secondary schools (notably those students who do not have appropriately specified family income data). See Appendix 1 for details on the undercount of Indigenous students.

6. Indigenous students, type of school attended and family income

Two thirds of Indigenous students in government primary schools have LOW family incomes, while barely half the Indigenous students in Catholic primary schools have LOW family incomes. Indigenous students in other nongovernment schools generally have lower family incomes than Indigenous students in Catholic schools.

Of all the Indigenous students in government primary schools, only 9% are in HIGH income families. In contrast, in Catholic primary schools 20% of all Indigenous students are in HIGH income families, and in other nongovernment schools, 18% are in HIGH income families. The pattern is a little more pronounced at the secondary level. Of all the Indigenous students in government secondary schools, 61% are in LOW income families, and only 13% are in HIGH income families. In contrast, in Catholic secondary schools 31% of all Indigenous students are in HIGH income families, and in other nongovernment schools, 26% are in HIGH income families - see Table 5.3.

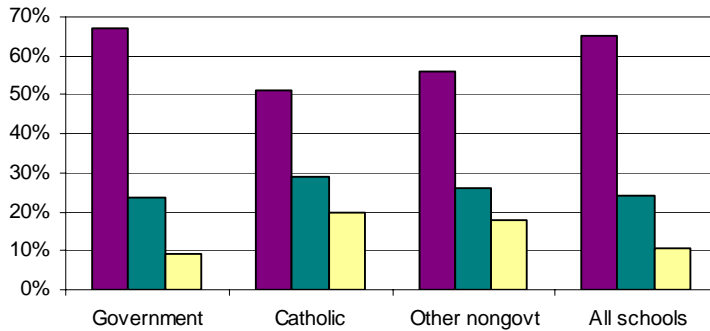
Table 6.2 Indigenous primary and secondary students, type of school attended by family income range, Australia, 2006

	Family Income range						All income levels
	<\$350	\$350-\$649	\$650-\$999	LOW <\$1,000	MEDIUM \$1,000-\$1,699	HIGH \$1,700+	
Primary schools							
Government	18%	28%	21%	67%	24%	9%	100%
Catholic	13%	21%	18%	51%	29%	20%	100%
Other nongovernment	13%	24%	19%	56%	26%	18%	100%
All primary schools	17%	27%	20%	65%	24%	11%	100%
Secondary schools							
Government	15%	25%	21%	61%	26%	13%	100%
Catholic	9%	16%	17%	41%	28%	31%	100%
Other nongovernment	10%	19%	17%	47%	27%	26%	100%
All secondary schools	14%	24%	20%	58%	26%	15%	100%

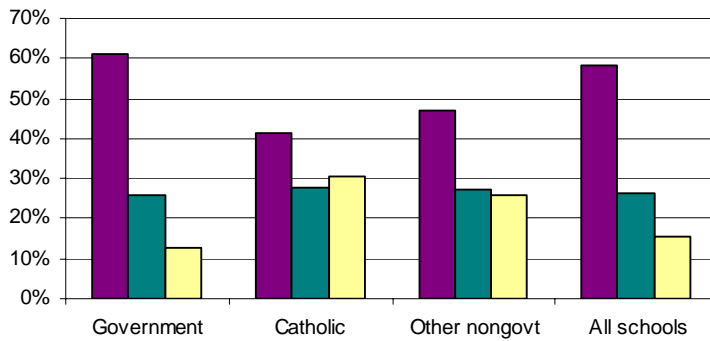
Figure 6.1. Percentage of all Indigenous students in each of government, Catholic and other nongovernment primary and secondary schools with low, medium or high family incomes, 2006

Family income level: Low (< \$1000/wk) Medium (\$1000-\$1699/wk) High (>\$1700/wk)

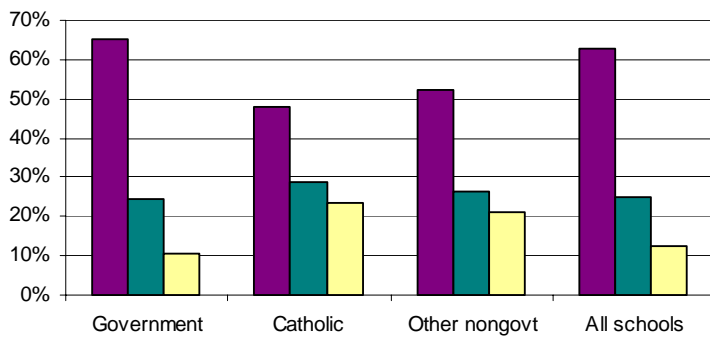
Primary schools



Secondary schools



All schools (primary & secondary)



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

Eighty six per cent of all Indigenous *primary* students attend government schools. While 89% of LOW income (and 90% of very LOW income) Indigenous primary students attend government schools, only 75% of HIGH income Indigenous primary students attend government schools. In contrast, while only 10% of all Indigenous primary students attend Catholic schools, 18% of HIGH income Indigenous primary students attend Catholic schools. Similarly, while only 4% of all Indigenous primary students attend other nongovernment schools, 7% of HIGH income Indigenous primary students attend other nongovernment schools.

The pattern is similar, but more pronounced, at the *secondary* level. Eighty four per cent of all Indigenous secondary students attend government schools. While 89% of LOW income (and 89% of very LOW income) Indigenous secondary students attend government schools, only 69% of HIGH income Indigenous secondary students attend government schools. In contrast, while only 10% of all Indigenous secondary students attend Catholic schools, 20% of HIGH income Indigenous secondary students attend Catholic schools. Similarly, while only 6% of all Indigenous secondary students attend other nongovernment schools, 10% of HIGH income Indigenous primary students attend other nongovernment schools. (Table 7.1.)

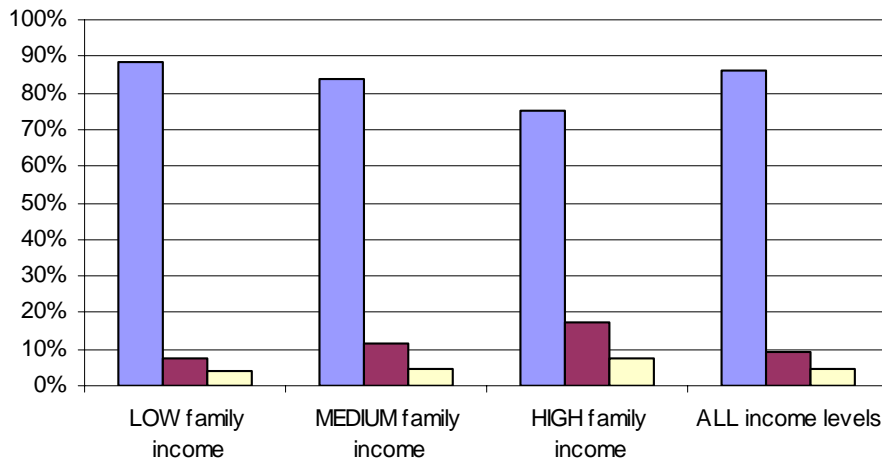
Table 7.1 Indigenous primary and secondary students, family income range by type of school attended, Australia, 2006

	Family Income range						
	<\$350	\$350- \$649	\$650- \$999	LOW <\$1,000	MEDIUM \$1,000- \$1,699	HIGH \$1,700+	All income levels
Primary schools							
Government	90%	89%	87%	89%	84%	75%	86%
Catholic	7%	7%	8%	7%	11%	18%	10%
Other nongovernment	3%	4%	4%	4%	5%	7%	4%
All primary schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Secondary schools							
Government	89%	88%	86%	89%	83%	69%	84%
Catholic	6%	7%	9%	6%	11%	20%	10%
Other nongovernment	4%	5%	5%	4%	6%	10%	6%
All secondary schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

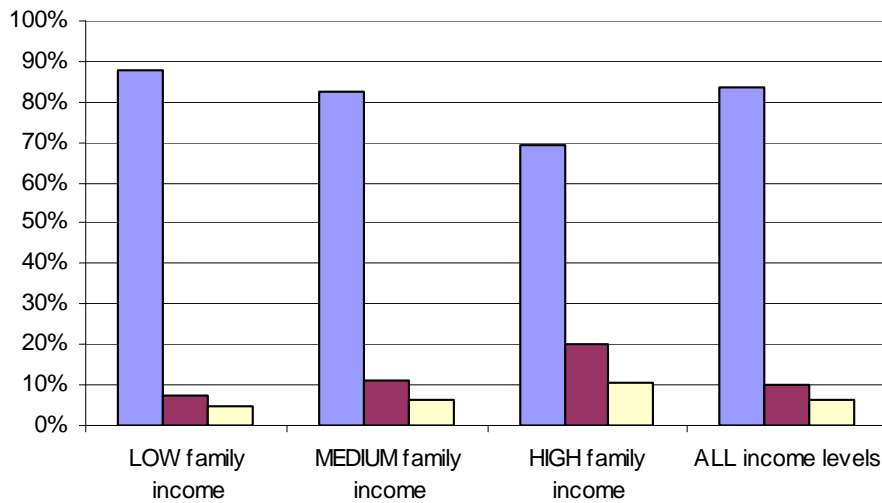
Figure 7.1 Percentage of Indigenous primary and secondary students in each family income range who attend government, Catholic or other nongovernment schools, 2006

School type attended: Government Catholic Other nongovernment

Primary students



Secondary students



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

This section considers Indigenous students of only the Catholic religion and all others ('non-Catholic or no religion').

Almost a quarter (24%) of Indigenous students (in this data set – see Appendix 1) are Catholic (Table 8.2), while 30% of all Australian students are Catholic (Table 1.1).

Indigenous Catholic students tend to have higher family incomes than non-Catholic Indigenous students (Table 8.1). Put another way, a higher proportion of Indigenous students with HIGH family incomes are Catholic relative to the percentage with LOW family incomes who are Catholic (31% compared with 22% - see Table 8.2).

Table 8.1 Percentage of Indigenous students who are Catholic and non-Catholic in each family income range

Religion	Family Income range			All income levels
	LOW <\$1,000	MEDIUM \$1,000-\$1,699	HIGH \$1,700+	
Non-Catholic or no religion	64%	24%	11%	100%
Catholic	58%	26%	16%	100%
All Indigenous students	63%	25%	12%	100%

Table 8.2 Percentage of Indigenous students in each family income range who are Catholic and non-Catholic

Religion	Family Income range			All income levels
	LOW <\$1,000	MEDIUM \$1,000-\$1,699	HIGH \$1,700+	
Non-Catholic or no religion	78%	75%	69%	76%
Catholic	22%	25%	31%	24%
All Indigenous students	100%	100%	100%	100%

Among Australian school students as a whole, Catholic religion students in LOW income families are much less likely to attend Catholic schools than HIGH income Catholic religion students (see Section 4) – 42% compared with 60% (Table 4.1). This pattern is also apparent for Catholic religion Indigenous students, though a smaller proportion of Catholic Indigenous students in each family income range attend Catholic schools – 25% of LOW income Catholic Indigenous students attend Catholic schools, while 43% of HIGH income Catholic Indigenous students attend Catholic schools (Table 8.4).

A major factor in the type of school attended by Indigenous students (of all religions and income levels) would be the geographic location of schools of the different types in relation to the home locations of the Indigenous students.

Table 8.3 Percentage of Indigenous students in each type of school, and Catholic religion and all others, who are in each family income range, Australia, 2006

	Family Income range			All income levels
	LOW <\$1,000	MEDIUM \$1,000-\$1,699	HIGH \$1,700+	
Government schools				
Non-Catholic & no religion	66%	24%	10%	100%
Catholic religion	63%	25%	12%	100%
All Indigenous students in government schools	65%	24%	10%	100%
Catholic schools				
Non-Catholic & no religion	49%	30%	21%	100%
Catholic religion	47%	28%	24%	100%
All Indigenous students in Catholic schools	48%	29%	23%	100%
Other nongovernment schools				
Non-Catholic & no religion	53%	26%	20%	100%
Catholic religion	49%	26%	25%	100%
All Indigenous students in other nongovernment schools	52%	26%	21%	100%
All Indigenous school students	63%	25%	12%	100%

Table 8.4 Percentage of Indigenous students in each family income range who are in each type of school, Indigenous students of Catholic religion and all others, and all Indigenous students, Australia, 2006

	Family Income range			All income levels
	LOW <\$1,000	MEDIUM \$1,000-\$1,699	HIGH \$1,700+	
NonCatholic religion and no religion Indigenous students				
Government	93%	90%	84%	91%
Catholic	3%	5%	6%	3%
Other nongovernment	4%	6%	9%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Catholic religion Indigenous students				
Government	73%	66%	53%	68%
Catholic	25%	31%	43%	29%
Other nongovernment	2%	3%	4%	3%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
All Indigenous students (all religions and no religion)				
Government	89%	84%	75%	86%
Catholic	7%	11%	18%	10%
Other nongovernment	4%	5%	7%	4%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

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

According to the Census data, around 22% of all Australian schools students are in one parent families, 25% of students in government schools are in one parent families, and 15% of students in each of Catholic and other nongovernment schools are in one parent families (Table 1.2).

Students in one parent families at both the primary and secondary levels are almost four times as likely as other students to have very low family incomes of less than \$350 a week (compare Tables 2.1 and 9.1). Students in one parent families at the primary level are only around one tenth as likely as other students to have HIGH family incomes – only 3% of primary students in single parent families have HIGH family incomes. At the secondary level only 6% of students in single parent families have HIGH family incomes.

While students in single parent families in government schools are more likely to have LOW family incomes than are students in single parent families in either Catholic or other nongovernment schools, the differences are not as marked as for all students (again, compare Tables 2.1 and 9.1)

Table 9.1 Percentage of students in one parent families in each of government, Catholic and other nongovernment sectors, primary, secondary and all schools with low, medium or high family incomes, Australia, 2006

	Family income						
	<\$350	\$350-\$649	\$650-\$999	LOW <\$1,000	MEDIUM \$1,000-\$1,699	HIGH \$1,700+	All income levels
Primary schools							
Government	29%	36%	23%	87%	10%	3%	100%
Catholic	24%	29%	27%	80%	16%	4%	100%
Other non government	23%	28%	25%	76%	16%	8%	100%
Primary total	28%	34%	24%	85%	11%	3%	100%
Secondary schools							
Government	22%	32%	26%	79%	17%	4%	100%
Catholic	16%	24%	28%	67%	25%	8%	100%
Other non government	17%	21%	24%	62%	24%	14%	100%
Secondary total	20%	29%	26%	75%	19%	6%	100%
All schools	24%	32%	24%	81%	15%	4%	100%

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

Students in one parent families in each family income range are more likely to attend both government schools than are all students (compare Tables 3.1 and 10.1). This may be explained by students in one parent families tending to cluster towards the lower end of each family income range (because of the much higher proportion of students in one parent families who have LOW and very LOW family incomes (compare Tables 2.1 and 9.1). In addition, students in one parent families, relative to all students, are less represented in Catholic schools than in other nongovernment schools³, which may be explained by Catholic religion students being a slightly smaller proportion of students in one parent families (26%) compared with the proportion of all students who are Catholic (30%), and, perhaps, some alienation felt (rightly or wrongly) by single parents from Catholic school culture.

Table 10.1 Percentage of primary, secondary and all students in one parent families in each family income range who attend government, Catholic and other nongovernment schools, Australia, 2006

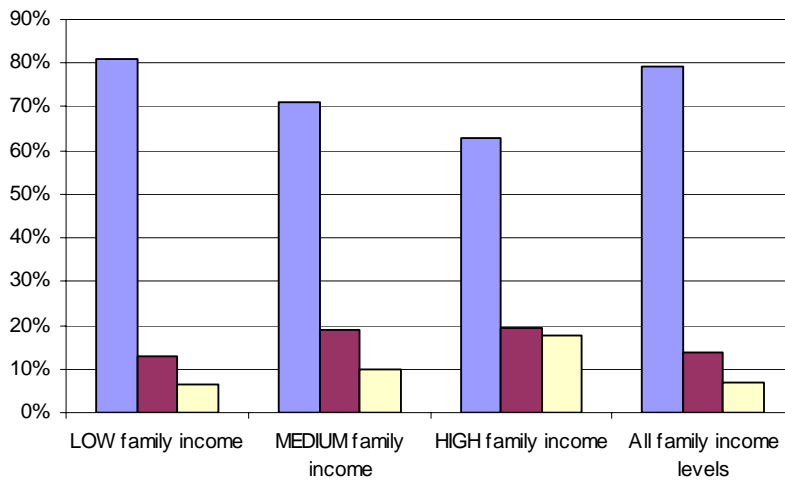
	Family income (per week)						All income levels
	< \$350	\$350-\$649	\$650-\$999	LOW <\$1000	MEDIUM \$1000-\$1699	HIGH >1700	
<i>Type of school attended by primary students in each family income range</i>							
Government	82%	83%	77%	81%	71%	63%	79%
Catholic	12%	12%	16%	13%	19%	19%	14%
Other nongovernment	6%	6%	7%	6%	10%	18%	7%
All primary schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<i>Type of school attended by secondary students in each family income range</i>							
Government	77%	78%	71%	76%	64%	51%	72%
Catholic	13%	13%	18%	15%	21%	22%	16%
Other nongovernment	10%	8%	11%	10%	15%	27%	12%
All secondary schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<i>Type of school attended by all (primary and secondary) students in each family income range</i>							
Government	80%	81%	74%	79%	67%	56%	76%
Catholic	12%	12%	17%	14%	20%	21%	15%
Other nongovernment	7%	7%	9%	8%	13%	23%	9%
All schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

³ For example, for students with HIGH family incomes, 26% of all students but only 21% of students in one parent families attend Catholic schools, while 21% of all students but 23% of students in one parent families attend other nongovernment schools.

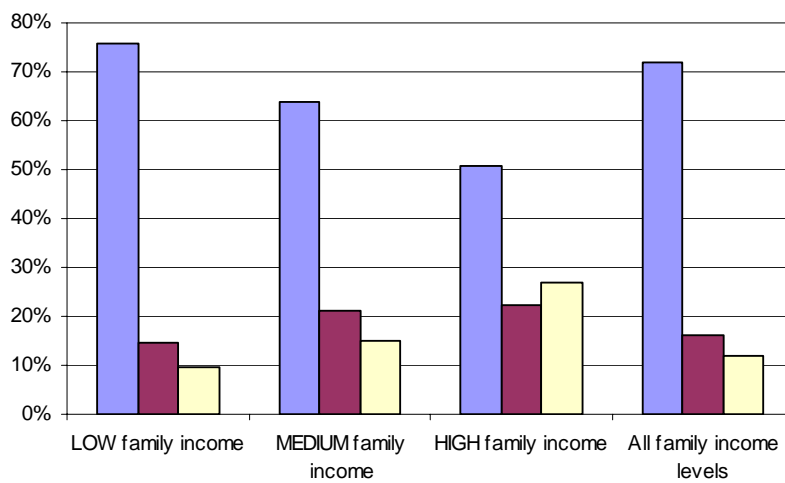
Figure 10.1 Percentage of primary and secondary students in one parent families in each family income range who attend government, Catholic or other nongovernment schools, 2006

School type attended: Government Catholic Other nongovernment

Primary students



Secondary students



References

- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2007a, *2006 Census of Population and Housing*, custom tables provided by ABS ACT Office Client Services, Civic ACT, 21 September 2007.
- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2007b, *2006 Schools, Australia*, Cat. No. 4221.0, viewed 26 September 2007,
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4221.02006?OpenDocument>
- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2007c, *Census of Population and Housing – Details of Undercount, Australia*, Cat. No. 2940.0, viewed 27 September 2007,
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/2940.0Aug%2006?OpenDocument>
- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2006, *Census Dictionary Australia, 2006*, Cat. No. 2901.0, viewed 6 August 2007,
[http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/2901.02006%20\(Reissue\)?OpenDocument](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/2901.02006%20(Reissue)?OpenDocument)
- Preston, Barbara 2003, *The social make-up of schools: Family income, religion, Indigenous status, and family type in government, Catholic and other nongovernment schools*. Australian Education Union, Melbourne, viewed 26 September 2007,
<http://www.aeufederal.org.au/Debates/bprestonsch.pdf>

Appendix 1. Data and definitions

The data in this report is from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census, custom tables. Further information on definitions is available in the ABS *Census Dictionary Australia, 2006* (ABS 2006).

School type is according to the Census classifications (TYPP, categories 21 to 33): Government infants/primary, Catholic infants/primary, and Other nonGovernment infants/primary, Government secondary, Catholic secondary, and Other nonGovernment secondary (in this report ‘infants/primary’ is written as ‘primary’). All school students for whom useable responses regarding school type and family income (see following) were provided on Census night in August 2006 are included in the data.

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, partially stated and ‘not applicable’). For this report the incomes are classified into LOW (less than \$1000 a week, including negative or nil income), MEDIUM (between \$1000 and \$1699 a week) and HIGH (\$1700 and over a week) income ranges. Very close to one third of the total number of Australian school students who are included in the analyses fall into each of the three family income ranges. Primary students generally have lower family incomes (35%, 33% and 31% respectively in the LOW, MEDIUM and HIGH ranges), and secondary students generally have higher family incomes (32%, 30% and 37% respectively) – probably because primary students’ 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, and that secondary students are more likely to have student workers and young adult children adding to the family income). Thus comparisons between primary and secondary levels need to take account of the larger proportion overall of LOW family income students at the primary level, and higher proportion of HIGH income students at the secondary level.

In addition to the three main classifications used consistently throughout the report, for some analyses (especially involving Indigenous students and students in single parent families) the ‘low’ income category is further divided into three: less than \$350 a week, between \$350 and \$649, and \$650 to \$799. In 2006 a single parent family with one or two children could receive up to around \$450 a week in public benefits, while a couple could receive up to around \$800 a week in public benefits.

The total number of **students** in these custom tables compared with the total number reported in the ABS *Schools Australia, 2006* (ABS 2007b, Table 7) is 88% at the primary level, and 89% at the secondary level. (The *Schools* census date and the Census date occurred less than a week apart in August 2006, so students leaving school between the two collections should not have been a factor.) The missing students could include those for whom the ‘school type’ item on the Census form (item 25) was not completed, those who were inadvertently left off the household’s Census form, or those whose household did not complete a form (ABS has estimated that 2.7% of school age individuals were not counted at all in the Census, and that 13% of Indigenous people were not counted – ABS 2007c, p. 6). There may also have been differences in definition of a ‘school student’ (especially at the pre-year one and senior secondary levels). (It is unlikely that there was any overcount in the *Schools* collection.)

If the family income categories of ‘partial or all incomes not stated’ or ‘not applicable’ are excluded (leaving the students included in the analyses in this report), then the number decreases

to 77% the number in *Schools Australia* at the primary level and 70% at the secondary level. The proportion of students with partial or no family income stated (13% Australia-wide) is very similar across all school sectors, but greater at the secondary level than at the primary level (probably reflecting the greater likelihood of student-workers and other young workers whose incomes were inadvertently left off the Census form, or being part of a family that had someone temporarily absent). The proportion of students with family income 'not applicable' is only three per cent in total, but nine per cent for Other nonGovernment secondary school students – probably reflecting the higher proportion in that sector of students in boarding schools and other away-from-home situations, and thus in 'non-private dwellings' or 'nonfamily households' which are the main reasons for FINF being 'not applicable' (this is much more pronounced for Indigenous students – see below). In addition, the analyses generally do not include students from Jervis Bay Territory and the Territories of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands, who together make up just 0.01% of all Australian school students.

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'.

The ABS has estimated an undercount in the 2006 Census of Indigenous people of 11.5% Australia-wide – ranging from 24.1% undercount in Western Australia to an overcount of almost six per cent in the ACT (ABS 2007c, p.7). If the ABS 'undercount adjustment factor' is applied to the number of Indigenous students in these custom tables, then the Australia-wide number is 90% of the number of Indigenous students in the *Schools* collection. This ranges from 80% in SA and WA, to over 90% in NSW, Victoria and Queensland.

However, only 79% of Indigenous students in these custom tables had fully stated family incomes, and are thus part of the analyses in this report. Thus, the actual number of Indigenous students in the analyses is only 63% of the number of Indigenous students in the *Schools* collection, and if the 'undercount adjustment factor' is applied, then the number is 71% of the number in the *Schools* collection.

Fifteen per cent of students in these custom tables had family incomes '*some or all not stated*'. There was not a great difference between sectors and levels, though, similarly to the student population as a whole, the incidence was greater at the secondary level than the primary level, and greater in the government sector. See Tables A.1.1 and A.1.2.

Seven per cent of Indigenous students in these custom tables had '*not applicable*' family incomes. There were large differences between sectors and levels: it was a particularly large category for secondary students in the other nongovernment and Catholic sectors (29% and 24% respectively), while only 4% government and Catholic primary school Indigenous students had 'not applicable' family incomes. The high rates of 'not applicable' family incomes for Indigenous students attending secondary other nongovernment and Catholic schools probably reflects high rates of boarding school and residential hostel students in those groups (paralleling the student population as a whole – see above) – this is consistent with the finding of higher rates of 'not applicable' family incomes for Indigenous students in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Queensland (where a higher proportion of Indigenous secondary students would board in schools or hostels, or be in nonfamily households). Indigenous secondary students with 'not applicable' family incomes would also include those in correctional institutions, in group households and where no adults were present on the night (categories in which Indigenous young people are likely to be overrepresented).

Table A.1.1 Percentage of Indigenous students in ABS 2006 Census custom tables with family income 'some or all not stated', or 'not applicable', by states and territories

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
% FINF some or all not stated	14%	15%	15%	15%	17%	13%	12%	10%	15%
% FINF not applicable	5%	5%	8%	6%	9%	4%	10%	3%	7%

Source: ABS 2007a

Table A.1.2 Percentage of Indigenous students in ABS 2006 Census custom tables with family income 'some or all not stated', or 'not applicable', by school level and sector

	Primary		Secondary
Government school sector			
% FINF some or all not stated	13%	% FINF some or all not stated	19%
% FINF not applicable	4%	% FINF not applicable	7%
Catholic school sector			
% FINF some or all not stated	13%	% FINF some or all not stated	14%
% FINF not applicable	4%	% FINF not applicable	24%
Other nongovernment school sector			
% FINF some or all not stated	12%	% FINF some or all not stated	14%
% FINF not applicable	7%	% FINF not applicable	29%

Source: ABS 2007a

Students in *One Parent Families* (FMCF 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. Overall around 10% of students in one parent families have family incomes 'some or all not stated'. This differed little between states and school sectors, but, in line with other students, was higher at the secondary level (13%) than at the primary level (7%). (The 'not applicable' family income category is not relevant because it applies to non-family households and dwellings, and, by definition, students in one parent families are in families.)