



# *Education in Australia*

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*There exists a centralized national system of education in Australia. The top of this system is the Federal Ministry of Education. But there are still many differences in the structure and the curricula of schools in different states.*



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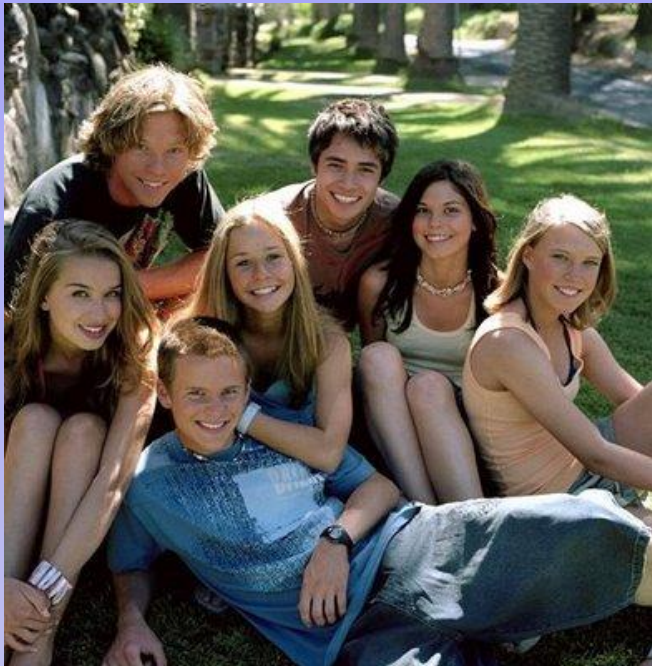
*There exist two types of schools in the country: state schools and private schools. Tuition in state schools is free of charge. Private schools charge rather high fees.*

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*80 % of Australian children go to state schools, and only 20 % attend fee-paying schools. School education is obligatory for all children from 6 to 15 years.*

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*At present the school education scheme is «6+4+2» or «7+3+2».*

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*Most children begin primary schools at the age of about five. Primary schools include from 1 to 6 or 7 grades. After primary school children pass to secondary school without examinations.*



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*Junior high schools comprise 4 or 3-year courses. After these courses students complete two year senior high school. After senior classes of secondary schools students may enter any higher educational institution in the country.*

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*There is a tendency of cancelling final examinations in both junior and senior secondary schools. In this case more children, irrespective of their abilities, may receive secondary education.*



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*University admission is only after the senior secondary schools. Tuition fees differ from one state to another.*

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*Each state and territory in Australia makes its own laws about education.*

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*Australia's four-term school year begins in February with a two-week holiday between terms. The fourth and final term ends around December 20.*

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*The Christmas holiday coincides with the end of school and beginning of the summer vacation. The students return to school in February.*

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*In Australia large schools are found in cities along the coast. One-teacher schools are located farther out in the countryside. A teacher in the country may teach all grades, with only one or two students in a grade.*

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*Students living far from the city attend “Schools of the Air”. They listen to the teacher on the radio each day when it’s time for school.*



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*Students have their own books. They answer questions over the microphone. The teacher assigns home-work to do. The completed home-work is mailed to the teacher. It is discussed over the microphone, corrected and mailed back.*