

Retention, Progression and Participation Rates in Tasmanian Schools, 2006-2015

Statistics from the National Schools Statistics Collection (NSSC) show improvement in the retention of students in Tasmanian schools past Year 10, as shown in the trends cited below.

Enrolments and rates are reported by school sector (Government, Catholic and Independent). The purpose is not to compare progression or retention rates, as each sector has its own arrangements for senior secondary schooling (Years 11 and 12). These differences are related to the provision of Years 11 and 12, and are highlighted only when the statistics indicate a shift between sectors.

Main points

Retention (Year 7-12)

Between 2006 and 2015, the Year 7-12 apparent retention rate in Tasmania increased from 64.8% to 71.7%, based on full-time enrolments.

In Government schools, the rate increased from 63.2% in 2006 to 74.1% in 2015. The rate was relatively stable in Catholic schools (60.4% in 2015), and there was a decrease in Independent schools from 83.8% in 2006 to 77.4% in 2015.

The Year 7-12 apparent retention rate for full-time students increased dramatically between 2009 and 2010 in Government schools (61.3% to 72.9%) and in all schools (63.8% to 71.0%) in Tasmania. At the same time, the rate for Independent schools decreased (85.4% to 73.9%).

The fluctuations between 2009 and 2010 reflect the change in the structure of post-Year 10 education in Tasmania, when four of eight Government colleges, along with TAFE Tasmania, were restructured and brought under the authority of the Tasmanian Academy and the Tasmanian Polytechnic. The four remaining colleges continued under the authority of the Tasmanian Department of Education. As a result of these changes, data for students who were in scope were collected by different authorities and had to be collated before submission to the National Schools Statistics Collection (NSSC). Fluctuations in enrolments are seen in each subsequent year to 2015 (the most recent collection), as noted in *Schools Australia* (ABS cat. no. 4221.0).¹

Progression (Year 10-11)

Overall, Year 10-11 progression rates for full-time students increased from 77.1% in 2006 to 85.4% in 2015. The progression rate increased from 76.2% in 2010 to 80.8% in 2011, and to 85.1% in 2012. These later shifts are more likely a delayed result of the changes in the structure of post-Year 10 education and the changes in enumeration rules for the NSSC.

When the full-time equivalence of part-time students is included in the calculation of progression rates, the Year 10-11 progression rate increased from 79.8% in 2010 to 88.4% in 2011 and 92.3% in 2012. It was during this period that there were large enrolments of part-time students in Years 11 and 12, many of whom were 21 years and older.

In some years for Government schools, the Year 10-11 progression rate was greater than 100%, indicating that Government senior secondary schools were either gaining students from non-Government schools or enrolling students who had returned to school after a period of non-enrolment.

Compared to other jurisdictions in 2006, Tasmania had the lowest Year 10-11 apparent progression rate (75.0%) in Australia. The overall rate for Australia that year was 87.4%. From 2006 to 2010, the rate for Tasmania remained close to 75% while it increased in most other jurisdictions; the Australian rate for 2010 was 89.3%. By 2015, the Year 10-11 apparent progression rate for Tasmania, as reported in the NSSC¹, was 84.7% and the national rate was 91.6%, representing a decrease in the difference between Tasmania and the Australian rates of close to one-half, from a 12.4 percentage point difference to a 6.9 percentage point difference.

Participation (15-to-19 Year Olds)

By comparison with other jurisdictions, Tasmania does well in the percentage of young people aged 15-to-19 years who are enrolled at a school, either full-time or part-time. The Australian Capital Territory has the highest rate, at 73.3% enrolled either full-time or part-time. Tasmania, at 62.4%, has the fourth highest rate in Australia, and is above the national rate of 58.8%.

The Tasmanian rate has been similar to the rates for South Australia and Victoria from 2010 to 2015, with two years, 2011 and 2012, when the Tasmania rate was higher. This period coincides with the period to which the ABS refers in discussing the fluctuations in relation to enrolments in the State (see endnote).

The rate is likely to be at its level relative to other jurisdictions as a result of current entry-age legislation, which is under review. Students in Tasmania are approximately six months older than students in other jurisdictions, because the school entry age in Tasmania is higher than it is in other jurisdictions. This is seen in the NAPLAN reports, with the age differences noted at each tested year level. For PISA, a greater proportion of sampled students in Tasmania are in Year 9 compared other jurisdictions.

¹ The Australian apparent progression rate includes Tasmanian students. Apparent retention rates, as calculated for the NSSC, 'include both full-time and part-time students and are adjusted to factor in changes in the population' (ABS, cat. No. 4221.0, Table 65a, 2015, Explanatory Notes).

Enrolments in Years 9-12, Full-time Students, by Sector, 2006-2015

Year Level	Year									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Government										
Year 9	4638	4738	4616	4681	4540	4476	4222	4258	4342	4200
Year 10	4706	4599	4727	4567	4719	4599	4408	4254	4306	4404
Year 11	3492	3471	3368	3505	3456	3930	4146	3845	3736	3947
Year 12	2985	2947	2907	2862	3451	3215	3166	3144	3090	3139
Catholic										
Year 9	1217	1265	1227	1305	1303	1354	1291	1348	1368	1321
Year 10	1198	1186	1243	1210	1258	1276	1318	1273	1315	1339
Year 11	853	896	815	875	922	924	936	947	901	950
Year 12	680	694	789	703	768	800	806	825	847	809
Independent										
Year 9	894	946	924	980	921	919	843	934	850	929
Year 10	942	912	968	959	993	922	935	844	951	858
Year 11	738	860	821	897	758	780	701	748	700	718
Year 12	659	664	747	725	689	698	708	640	683	646
All schools										
Year 9	6749	6949	6767	6966	6764	6749	6356	6540	6560	6450
Year 10	6846	6697	6938	6736	6970	6797	6661	6371	6572	6601
Year 11	5083	5227	5004	5277	5136	5634	5783	5540	5337	5615
Year 12	4324	4305	4443	4290	4908	4713	4680	4609	4620	4594

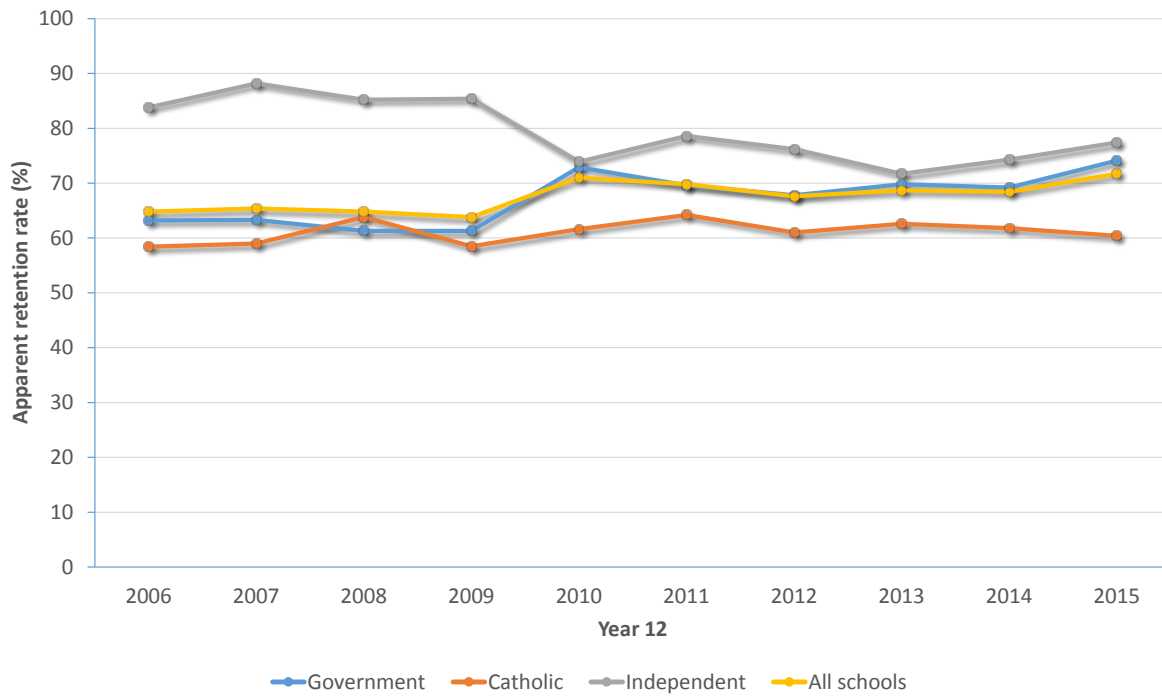
Source: ABS (2015), *Schools Australia* (cat. No. 4221.0), Table 42b.

Year 7-12 Apparent Retention Rate, Full-time Students, by Sector, 2006-2015

Sector	Year 12 cohort									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Government	63.2	63.3	61.3	61.3	72.9	69.6	67.8	69.8	69.2	74.1
Catholic	58.4	59.0	63.8	58.5	61.6	64.2	61.0	62.6	61.8	60.4
Independent	83.8	88.2	85.2	85.4	73.9	78.6	76.2	71.7	74.3	77.4
<i>All schools</i>	64.8	65.4	64.8	63.8	71.0	69.8	67.6	68.7	68.4	71.7

Source: Author's calculations based on ABS (2015), *Schools Australia* (cat. No. 4221.0), Table 42b, and ABS (2008), *Schools Australia* (cat. No. 4221.0), Table 42a.

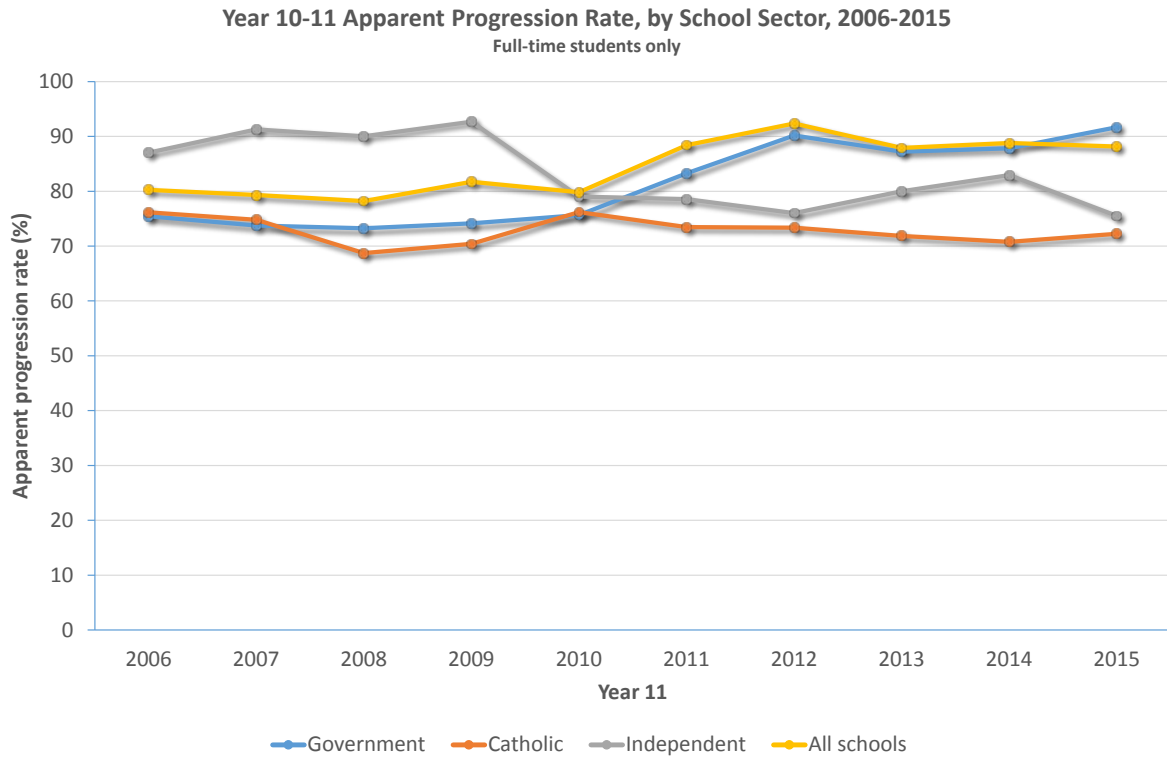
Year 7-12 Apparent Retention Rate, by School Sector, 2006-2015
Full-time students only



Year 10-11 Apparent Progression Rate, Full-time Students, by Sector, 2006-2015²

Sector	Year 12 cohort									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Government	75.4	73.8	73.2	74.1	75.7	83.3	90.2	87.2	87.8	91.7
Catholic	76.2	74.8	68.7	70.4	76.2	73.4	73.4	71.9	70.8	72.2
Independent	87.0	91.3	90.0	92.7	79.0	78.5	76.0	80.0	82.9	75.5
<i>All schools</i>	80.3	79.3	78.2	81.7	79.8	88.4	92.3	87.9	88.8	88.2

Source: Author's calculations based on ABS (2015), *Schools Australia* (cat. No. 4221.0), Table 42b.

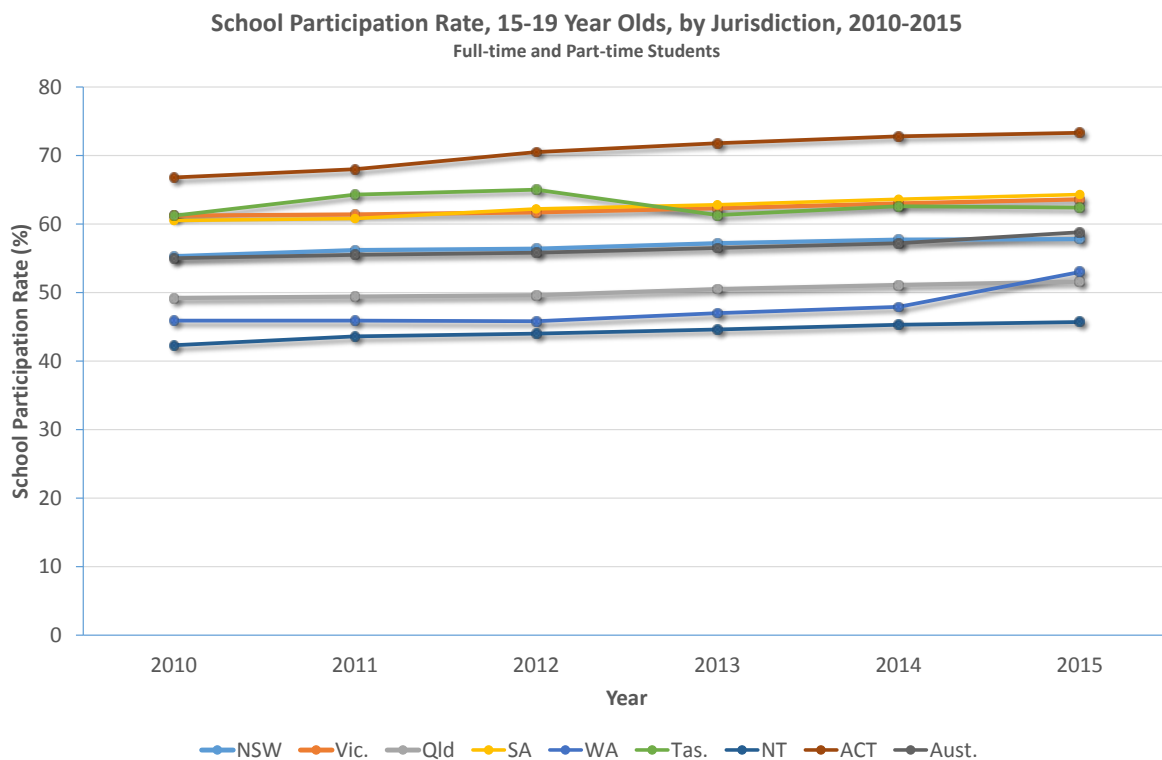


² Apparent retention rates on this page are based on full-time students only, unlike rates reported in the NSSC.

School Participation Rate for 15-19 Year Olds, Full-time and Part-time Students, by Jurisdiction, 2010-2015

Jurisdiction	Year					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Australian Capital Territory	66.8	68.0	70.5	71.8	72.8	73.3
South Australia	60.5	60.8	62.2	62.8	63.6	64.3
Victoria	61.2	61.4	61.7	62.3	63.0	63.6
Tasmania	61.2	64.3	65.0	61.3	62.6	62.4
New South Wales	55.3	56.2	56.4	57.2	57.7	57.8
Western Australia	45.9	45.9	45.8	47.0	47.9	53.0
Queensland	49.2	49.4	49.6	50.5	51.1	51.6
Northern Territory	42.3	43.6	44.0	44.6	45.3	45.7
<i>Australia</i>	<i>55.0</i>	<i>55.5</i>	<i>55.8</i>	<i>56.5</i>	<i>57.2</i>	<i>58.8</i>

Source: ABS (2015), *Schools Australia* (cat. No. 4221.0), Table 66a.



Notes

¹ Explanatory notes from Schools Australia (ABS cat. No. 4221.0):

(2009) Tasmanian education underwent a significant restructure of post-year 10 education in 2009. This reform, entitled Tasmania Tomorrow, created three new statutory organisations (called the Tasmanian Academy, the Tasmanian Polytechnic and the Tasmanian Skills Institute) from the merger of state government colleges (years 11 and 12) and TAFE Tasmania. In 2009 four of Tasmania's eight government colleges, along with TAFE Tasmania, were restructured and brought under the authority of the Tasmanian Academy and the Tasmanian Polytechnic. The four remaining colleges continued under the authority of the Tasmanian Department of Education (TDE) and will transition to the new structure by 2012. Census data from the Tasmanian Polytechnic and the Tasmanian Academy were combined with TDE data to provide the NSSC submission for Tasmanian government schools. TDE undertook a process of data collection, cleaning, reconciliation and application of scope to ensure that the data provided to the NSSC fully complied with collection definitions.

(2015) In recent years, Tasmania has alternated between a single and multiple entity college structure. This has impacted on the number of students as these structural changes have seen some Year 11 and 12 students change classification between school and the vocational education and training sector and hence move in and out of scope of the National School Statistics Collection.