

## AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

### Pre-Higher Education System

Structure of School System :

Pre-Primary : age level from:3 to:5

Primary : age level from 6 to 12

Secondary : age level from 12 to 18

Certificate/Diploma awarded at end:Senior Secondary Certificate of Education (exact name differs in each state and territory).

School education lasts for 13 years and is compulsory between the ages of 6 and 16 (Year 1 to 10). State and territory governments are responsible for school education policies and practices on organisation of schooling, curriculum, course accreditation, student assessment, grading and certification. Curriculum and assessment is underpinned by the 1999 National Goals for Schooling in the Twenty first Century which focuses on the learning outcomes for students and provides a framework for national reporting on student achievement.

The 2008 Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians focuses on improving excellence in school education and implementation of a national curriculum in school education.

The Australian Government provides support through funding, policy development, targeted programmes research and analysis of education issues.

### Higher Education System

Higher education in Australia refers to university and non university higher education institutions which award degree or sub degree qualifications based on the Australian Qualifications Framework. Australia has self accrediting public and private universities, self accrediting higher education institutions, and accredited higher education institutions. Universities and other self accrediting higher education institutions are established or recognised under state and territory or Commonwealth legislation.

Universities are autonomous multidisciplinary institutions that are responsible for their own management structure, budgets, resource allocation, staff, student enrolments, accreditation of qualifications, quality assurance and curriculum. Australia also has around 170 higher education institutions accredited by state and territory authorities to offer higher education courses. The Australian Government is responsible for higher education policy and finance through the Department of Education. Higher education students in Australia are subject to a range of fees. There are several financial support options available to students. Australian students can undertake higher education studies at an approved Australian higher education provider as a Commonwealth supported student. Students pay a subsidised student contribution for their education, but the Government pays for the majority of costs.