

s 22

**From:** s 22  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 September 2024 2:26 PM  
**To:** s 22 ; s 22  
**Cc:** s 22 ; s 22 ; s 22 ; s 22 ; s 22  
 s 22 Education - Media  
**Subject:** RE: CTC score: Presbyterian Ladies College - Burwood [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks s 22 – all understood and I'll go back to the journo

s 22

s 22

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The artwork *Guwanyir wingara yirabana* is our story. It means 'learning journey' in Dharug/Darug language. Designed by Trevor Eastwood from Dalmarrri with our people, the artwork was made by many hands in a powerful gesture showcasing reconciliation in action.

**From:** s 22  
**Sent:** Friday, September 27, 2024 2:19 PM  
**To:** s 22 ; s 22  
**Cc:** Education - Media ; s 22 ; s 22 ; s 22 ; s 22 ; s 22 ;  
 s 22  
**Subject:** RE: CTC score: Presbyterian Ladies College - Burwood [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 22

Please go back with the below noting the addition of the first dot point.

Thanks, s 22

- The Minister has directed the Department to review how this CTC score was arrived at for PLC. This work is underway.
- Capacity to contribute (CTC) is part of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) school funding arrangements, and the Department of Education calculates CTC scores in accordance with section

52 of the *Australian Education Act 2013* and Division 3 of the Australian Education Regulations 2023 (the Regulations).

- The Regulations require all CTC scores to be calculated using the direct measure of income (DMI) methodology. The DMI methodology document can be accessed on the department's website: <https://www.education.gov.au/recurrent-funding-schools/resources/direct-measure-income-dmi-methodology>
- A CTC score is a measure of a non-government school community's capacity to contribute to the ongoing costs of running the school, relative to the capacity at other non-government schools.
- A school's CTC score determines the discount the Commonwealth applies to funding the school. This percentage is applied to the SRS base funding amount.
- The DMI is based on the median family income of students at the school for that year. This is calculated by linking their parent(s) or guardian(s) names and address(es) with their personal income taxation data. The median family income is then transformed into an annual DMI score.
- The CTC score that applies to funding for a school is the average of the DMI scores for the school for the previous 3 years.
- DMI scores are assessed against a data quality and validation framework developed in consultation with the ABS to ensure scores are fit-for-purpose, reliable and robust.
- The 2024 CTC score for Presbyterian Ladies College is based on the Direct Measure of Income methodology in line with the requirements of the *Australian Education Regulations 2013*.
- The school's 2021, 2022 and 2023 CTC scores were determined by the delegate for the Minister for Education on the basis of a CTC score review. The outcome of this review is published on the department's website at <https://www.education.gov.au/recurrent-funding-schools/resources/outcome-ctc-score-reviews>.
- The CTC score review process is open to all CTC-eligible schools and provides for a transparent and thorough investigation if an approved authority for a school believes its school's CTC score is not accurate and has evidence to support its case. An external assessor with expertise in public audit and assurance processes reviews each CTC score review application and the department's assessment report.

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**From:** s 22 <s 22 >  
**Sent:** Friday, September 27, 2024 12:22 PM  
**To:** s 22 <s 22 s 22 <s 22  
**Cc:** Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>; s 22 <s 22  
s 22 <s 22 s 22  
<s 22 s 22 <s 22 s 22  
<s 22 s 22 <s 22  
**Subject:** RE: CTC score: Presbyterian Ladies College - Burwood [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 22

As discussed, there have been some additions to the PLC response. Could you please review and clear? As you know - the deadline was Middyay.

**The Age** <sup>s 47F</sup> writes, “I have some questions about the Capacity to Contribute (CTC) score assigned to this school please. At 103, PLC’s score is substantially less than comparable schools in Melbourne and Victoria (comparable either by ICSEA or by fee levels) which are between 119 and 135 (calendar year 2022). Are you able to take me through the methodology used by the department to assign this score to PLC please? I understand it has something to do with the large number of overseas parents at PLC, but any further detail - and documents - you could supply outlining the methodology would be brilliant.”

**Proposed response on background:**

- Capacity to contribute (CTC) is part of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) school funding arrangements, and the Department of Education calculates CTC scores in accordance with section 52 of the *Australian Education Act 2013* and Division 3 of the *Australian Education Regulations 2023* (the Regulations).
  - The Regulations require all CTC scores to be calculated using the direct measure of income (DMI) methodology. The DMI methodology document can be accessed on the department’s website: <https://www.education.gov.au/recurrent-funding-schools/resources/direct-measure-income-dmi-methodology>
  - If the DMI methodology cannot be used (for a reason specified in the Regulations), a refined-area-based (RAB) score must be used.
- A CTC score is a measure of a non-government school community’s capacity to contribute to the ongoing costs of running the school, relative to the capacity at other non-government schools.
- A school’s CTC score determines the discount the Commonwealth applies to funding the school. This percentage is applied to the SRS base funding amount only and ranges from 10% for schools with the lowest capacity to contribute to 80% for schools with the highest capacity to contribute. CTC does not impact other loadings under the SRS for student priority cohorts and disadvantaged schools.
- The DMI is based on the median family income of students at the school for that year. This is calculated by linking their parent(s) or guardian(s) names and address(es) with their personal income taxation data. This is done using the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA). The median family income is then transformed into an annual DMI score.
- The CTC score that applies to funding for a school is the average of the DMI scores for the school for the previous 3 years.
- DMI scores are assessed against a data quality and validation framework developed in consultation with the ABS to ensure scores are fit-for-purpose, reliable and robust.
- The 2024 CTC score for Presbyterian Ladies College is based on the Direct Measure of Income methodology in line with the requirements of the *Australian Education Regulations 2013*.
- The school’s 2021, 2022 and 2023 CTC scores were determined by the delegate for the Minister for Education on the basis of a CTC score review. The outcome of this review is published on the department’s website at <https://www.education.gov.au/recurrent-funding-schools/resources/outcome-ctc-score-reviews>.
- The CTC score review process is open to all CTC-eligible schools and provides for a transparent and thorough investigation if an approved authority for a school believes its school’s CTC score is not accurate and has evidence to support its case. An external assessor with expertise in public audit and assurance processes reviews each CTC score review application and the department’s assessment report.

**Background for MO only:**

- Part of the annual DMI calculation process is a manual review of all DMI scores that flag for possible quality concerns. The department failed the 2018, 2019 and 2020 annual DMI scores for PLC through this process, and they received refined-area based scores as a result.
- PLC requested reviews of their refined-area based scores as they believed they were not reflective of their community - the outcomes of the reviews was that the annual DMI scores for PLC were determined to be accurate and high quality scores
- PLC’s annual DMI scores from 2021 have been consistent and assessed by the department as high quality, with coverage rates of more than 90%.

s 22  
s 22

Phone **s 22**

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The artwork *Guwanyi wingara yirabana* is our story. It means 'learning journey' in Dharug/Darug language. Designed by Trevor Eastwood from Dalmarri with our people, the artwork was made by many hands in a powerful gesture showcasing reconciliation in action.

---

**From:** **s 22**

**Sent:** Friday, September 27, 2024 9:00 AM

**To:** **s 22** <**s 22** **s 22** <**s 22**

**Cc:** Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>; **s 22** <**s 22**

**Subject:** RE: CTC score: Presbyterian Ladies College - Burwood

Hi **s 22**

I'm going to step in on behalf of **s 22** who worked this one thru ... can you please review the response below? Sorry, the journo's deadline is Midday today.

**The Age** **s 47F** writes, "I have some questions about the Capacity to Contribute (CTC) score assigned to this school please. At 103, PLC's score is substantially less than comparable schools in Melbourne and Victoria (comparable either by ICSEA or by fee levels) which are between 119 and 135 (calendar year 2022). Are you able to take me through the methodology used by the department to assign this score to PLC please? I understand it has something to do with the large number of overseas parents at PLC, but any further detail - and documents - you could supply outlining the methodology would be brilliant."

**Proposed response on background:**

- Capacity to contribute (CTC) is part of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) school funding arrangements, and the Department of Education calculates CTC scores in accordance with section 52 of the *Australian Education Act 2013* and Division 3 of the *Australian Education Regulations 2023* (the Regulations).
  - The Regulations require all CTC scores to be calculated using the direct measure of income (DMI) methodology. The DMI methodology document can be accessed on the department's website: <https://www.education.gov.au/recurrent-funding-schools/resources/direct-measure-income-dmi-methodology>
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- The DMI is based on the median family income of students at the school for that year. This is calculated by linking their parent(s) or guardian(s) names and address(es) with their personal income taxation data. This is done using the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA). The median family income is then transformed into an annual DMI score.



- The CTC score that applies to funding for a school is the average of the DMI scores for the school for the previous 3 years.
- DMI scores are assessed against a data quality and validation framework developed in consultation with the ABS to ensure scores are fit-for-purpose, reliable and robust.

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s 22

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**From:** Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 26, 2024 1:33 PM

**To:** s 22 <s 22> s 22 <s 22>

**Cc:** Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>

**Subject:** FW: CTC score: Presbyterian Ladies College - Burwood

Hi s 22 and s 22

FYI we've received the following enquiry from The Age with a deadline of noon tomorrow.

Thanks

s 22

---

**From:** s 47F <s 47F>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 26, 2024 12:53 PM

**To:** Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>

**Subject:** CTC score: Presbyterian Ladies College - Burwood

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Hello media,

I have some questions about the Capacity to Contribute (CTC) score assigned to this school please.

At 103, PLC's score is substantially less than comparable schools in Melbourne and Victoria (comparable either by ICSEA or by fee levels) which are between 119 and 135 (calendar year 2022).

Are you able to take me through the methodology used by the department to assign this score to PLC please? I understand it has something to do with the large number of overseas parents at PLC, but any further detail - and documents - you could supply outlining the methodology would be brilliant.

Happy to chat on the number below if you need clarification.

Thank you,

s 47F

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s 22

**From:** s 22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 2 October 2024 12:02 PM  
**To:** s 22  
**Cc:** s 22 Education - Media; s 22 s 22  
**Subject:** RE: PLC funding review [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 22

Please find below the Dept's response with the only new bit highlighted in green for you to easily see - but hopefully delete before sending! – while the rest was cleared and provided last week.

**The Age (s 47F ) writes,** “My colleague s 47F had spoken to someone from your office regarding a review of [funding arrangements for Presbyterian Ladies College](#). I have been asked to find out what the expected timeline was for the review -s 47F .

- The Minister has directed the Department to review how this CTC score was arrived at for PLC. This work will be **completed over the coming weeks and sent to the Minister for his consideration.**
- Capacity to contribute (CTC) is part of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) school funding arrangements, and the Department of Education calculates CTC scores in accordance with section 52 of the *Australian Education Act 2013* and Division 3 of the Australian Education Regulations 2023 (the Regulations).
  - The Regulations require all CTC scores to be calculated using the direct measure of income (DMI) methodology. The DMI methodology document can be accessed on the department's website: <https://www.education.gov.au/recurrent-funding-schools/resources/direct-measure-income-dmi-methodology>
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- The CTC score that applies to funding for a school is the average of the DMI scores for the school for the previous 3 years.
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- The 2024 CTC score for Presbyterian Ladies College is based on the Direct Measure of Income methodology in line with the requirements of the *Australian Education Regulations 2013*.
- The school's 2021, 2022 and 2023 CTC scores were determined by the delegate for the Minister for Education on the basis of a CTC score review. The outcome of this review is published on the department's website at <https://www.education.gov.au/recurrent-funding-schools/resources/outcome-ctc-score-reviews>.

- The CTC score review process is open to all CTC-eligible schools and provides for a transparent and thorough investigation if an approved authority for a school believes its school's CTC score is not accurate and has evidence to support its case. An external assessor with expertise in public audit and assurance processes reviews each CTC score review application and the department's assessment report.

s 22

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---

**From:** s 22

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 2, 2024 10:42 AM

**To:** Education - Media

**Cc:** s 22

**Subject:** FW: PLC funding review [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Hi team – can we get a line drafted? By this afternoon please.

Thanks, s 22

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**From:** s 47F <s 47F >

**Sent:** Wednesday, 2 October 2024 12:36:48 am (UTC) Coordinated Universal Time

**To:** Minister Jason Clare Media <[media.clare@education.gov.au](mailto:media.clare@education.gov.au)>

**Subject:** PLC funding review

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Hi guys,



My colleague s 47F had spoken to someone from your office regarding a review of [funding arrangements for Presbyterian Ladies College](#).

I have been asked to find out what the expected timeline was for the review -s 47F

Thanks in advance,

s 47F

--

s 47F



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s 22

**From:** s 22  
**Sent:** Thursday, 31 October 2024 8:41 PM  
**To:** s 22  
**Cc:** s 22 s 22 s 22 s 22  
**Subject:** RE: PLC CTC score [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Hi s 22 and s 22

A quick FYI: The Department has completed the review of the CTC score for PLC (Victoria). The brief has been finalised and will be submitted (via PDMS) to the MO by parliamentary either tonight or tomorrow morning (MS24-000828).

Chris

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**From:** s 22  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 September 2024 5:30 PM  
**To:** s 22  
**Cc:** s 22 ; s 22 ; s 22 ; s 22  
**Subject:** RE: PLC CTC score [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Thank you s 22

Confirming the work is underway. I'll return to you with more information regarding the PLC CTC score.

s 22

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**From:** s 22 <s 22  
**Sent:** Friday, September 27, 2024 2:17 PM  
**To:** s 22 <s 22  
**Cc:** s 22 <s 22 > ; s 22 <s 22  
s 22 <s 22 s 22 <s 22  
**Subject:** PLC CTC score [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

Hi s 22

As discussed, the Minister has asked that the Department review how the PLC Burwood, Victoria CTC was arrived at. Please confirm this work is underway

As discussed – the 103 seemed low given the fees and expenditure on facilities.

Thank you

s 22

s 22

**From:** s 22  
**Sent:** Friday, 8 November 2024 9:50 AM  
**To:** s 22  
**Cc:** Education - Media; EDUC - FAS FundingAndDataCollection  
**Subject:** RE: PLC funding review [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Sorry s 22 – thanks for the response and apologies for not CCing you in when I hit send to MO (please see below) ...

s 22

s 22

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**From:** s 22  
**Sent:** Friday, 8 November 2024 9:46 AM  
**To:** s 22  
**Cc:** s 22 ; Education - Media  
**Subject:** RE: PLC funding review [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 22 ...

**The Age** s 47F writes, "I understand from Senate estimates today that the investigation into Presbyterian Ladies College funding has been completed. Are you able to provide the report? It would be great to also get a comment from Clare on the outcome. If possible it would be great to get a response by midday Friday.

#### Proposed response:

The review is currently with the Minister for his consideration.

s 22

s 22

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**From:** **s 22** <**s 22**>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 7 November 2024 4:45 PM  
**To:** Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** **s 22** <**s 22**>  
**Subject:** FW: PLC funding review [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi team – please draft for tomorrow morning.

Thanks, **s 22**

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**From:** **s 47F** <**s 47F**>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 7 November 2024 4:41 PM  
**To:** **s 22** <**s 22**>  
**Subject:** PLC funding review

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Hi **s 22**

I understand from Senate estimates today that the investigation into Presbyterian Ladies College funding has been completed.

Are you able to provide the report?

It would be great to also get a comment from Clare on the outcome.

If possible it would be great to get a response by midday Friday.

**s 47F**

--

s 47F



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s 22

**From:** s 22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2024 3:53 PM  
**To:** s 22 Education - Media; s 22  
**Cc:** s 22 s 22 s 22 EDUC - FAS FundingAndDataCollection;  
 s 22  
**Subject:** RE: PLC, [SEC=OFFICIAL]

That's great – thanks s 22

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**From:** s 22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2024 3:52 PM  
**To:** s 22 ; Education - Media ; s 22  
**Cc:** s 22 ; s 22 ; s 22 ; EDUC - FAS FundingAndDataCollection ; s 22  
**Subject:** RE: PLC, [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks s 22 – I've edited it a bit below.

- Commonwealth recurrent school funding for PLC was estimated at \$10.9m in 2022 and \$13m in 2023; up \$2.1m or 19.7%.
- The main driver of this increase is due to PLC transitioning up to a higher Commonwealth share of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) of 80% in 2023.
- The funding data referred to by the journalist is taken from ACARA's My School website. The funding figures are not directly comparable with Commonwealth recurrent funding entitlements, as it includes other grants made under the *Australian Education Act 2013*, Indigenous Education Grants or any recurrent grants from other Commonwealth departments or agencies. ACARA is best placed to advise on its reporting methodology.
- In addition, the per student funding amount quoted includes other income such as state and territory contributions, parental fees and other income.

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**From:** s 22 <s 22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2024 3:41 PM  
**To:** s 22 <s 22 Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>;  
 s 22 <s 22  
**Cc:** s 22 <s 22 s 22 <s 22  
 s 22 <s 22 EDUC - FAS FundingAndDataCollection  
 s 22 <s 22  
**Subject:** RE: PLC, [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks s 22 – can I please check that the below draft response is accurate?

#### Background

- PLC received SRS funding of \$10.9m in 2022 and \$13m in 2023; up \$2.1m or 19.7%.
- The main drive of this increase is due to PLC transitioning up to 80 of the SRS in 2023.
- It is important to note that funding reported in the MySchool dataset is not always comparable to the SRS, as it serves different reporting purpose.
- Funding reported by ACARA can also include other grants made under the *Australian Education Act 2013*, Indigenous Education Grants or any recurrent grants from other Commonwealth departments or agencies.

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**From:** s 22 <s 22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2024 3:37 PM  
**To:** s 22 <s 22 Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>;  
s 22 <s 22  
**Cc:** s 22 <s 22 s 22 <s 22  
s 22 <s 22 EDUC - FAS FundingAndDataCollection  
ss 22 s 22 <s 22  
**Subject:** RE: PLC, [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Yes, Cth recurrent funding under the Act (SRS Funding) and not other sources of funding.

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**From:** s 22 <s 22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2024 3:34 PM  
**To:** s 22 <s 22 Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>;  
s 22 <s 22  
**Cc:** s 22 <s 22 s 22 <s 22  
s 22 <s 22 EDUC - FAS FundingAndDataCollection  
<s 22 s 22 <s 22  
**Subject:** RE: PLC, [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Is that SRS + other bits and pieces?

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**From:** s 22 <s 22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2024 3:33 PM  
**To:** s 22 <s 22 Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>;  
s 22 <s 22  
**Cc:** s 22 <s 22 s 22 <s 22  
s 22 <s 22 EDUC - FAS FundingAndDataCollection  
<s 22 s 22 <s 22  
**Subject:** RE: PLC, [SEC=OFFICIAL]

It's the estimated Commonwealth recurrent funding contribution.

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**From:** s 22 <s 22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2024 3:31 PM  
**To:** s 22 <s 22 Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>;  
s 22 <s 22  
**Cc:** s 22 <s 22 s 22 <s 22  
s 22 <s 22 EDUC - FAS FundingAndDataCollection  
<s 22 s 22 <s 22  
**Subject:** RE: PLC, [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Sorry –to be clear – that is just SRS?

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**From:** s 22 <s 22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2024 3:21 PM  
**To:** s 22 <s 22 Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>;  
s 22 <s 22  
**Cc:** s 22 <s 22 s 22 <s 22  
s 22 <s 22 EDUC - FAS FundingAndDataCollection  
<s 22 s 22 <s 22  
**Subject:** RE: PLC, [SEC=OFFICIAL]

As at Budget 2024-25, \$10.9m in 2022 to \$13.0m in 2023; up \$2.1m or 19.7%

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**From:** s 22 <s 22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2024 3:17 PM  
**To:** s 22 <s 22 Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>;  
s 22 <s 22  
**Cc:** s 22 <s 22 s 22 <s 22  
s 22 <s 22 EDUC - FAS FundingAndDataCollection  
<s 22 s 22 <s 22  
**Subject:** RE: PLC, [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks s 22 – how much total recurrent funding did PLC receive in 2022 versus 2023?

---

**From:** s 22 <s 22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2024 2:59 PM  
**To:** s 22 <s 22 Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>;  
s 22 <s 22  
**Cc:** s 22 <s 22 s 22 <s 22  
s 22 <s 22 EDUC - FAS FundingAndDataCollection  
<s 22 s 22 <s 22  
**Subject:** RE: PLC, [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 22

Yes, and also MySchool and our recurrent funding model are not directly comparable.

We could include the below point re: funding increases from 2022 to 2023, but would prefer not to as we don't normally release school level data to media. Appreciate it's a decision for the MO.

Thanks  
s 22

---

**From:** s 22 <s 22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2024 2:49 PM  
**To:** s 22 <s 22 Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>;  
s 22 <s 22  
**Cc:** s 22 <s 22 s 22 <s 22  
s 22 <s 22 EDUC - FAS FundingAndDataCollection  
<s 22 s 22 <s 22  
**Subject:** RE: PLC, [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Got it – thank you s 22

Is this not the answer then?

- Australian Government Recurrent Funding for PLC increased from \$7,602 in 2022 to \$8855 in 2023, or a 16% increase. The main driver of this increase was PLC transitioning from a Commonwealth share of 71 per cent in 2022 to 80 per cent in 2023.

---

**From:** s 22 <s 22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2024 2:47 PM  
**To:** s 22 <s 22 Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>;  
s 22 <s 22  
**Cc:** s 22 <s 22 s 22 <s 22

s 22 <s 22  
<s 22

EDUC - FAS FundingAndDataCollection  
s 22 <s 22

Subject: RE: PLC, [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 22 – the first is reported through ACARA for My school and the second is from our recurrent funding model. Schools report to ACARA and include other Cth funding (see third dot point).

---

From: s 22 <s 22

Sent: Wednesday, 4 December 2024 2:44 PM

To: Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>; s 22 <s 22

Cc: s 22 <s 22 s 22 <s 22

s 22 <s 22 EDUC - FAS FundingAndDataCollection

<s 22 s 22 <s 22

s 22 <s 22

Subject: RE: PLC, [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks all – this doesn't make a lot of sense to me.

What's the difference between these two lines that to me seem contradictory?

- The *My School* Finance data indicates the total net recurrent income for Presbyterian Ladies' College (PLC) was \$43,760 per student in 2023. Of this, Australian Government Recurrent Funding accounted \$10,451 per student.
- Australian Government Recurrent Funding for PLC increased from \$7,602 in 2022 to \$8855 in 2023, or a 16% increase. The main driver of this increase was PLC transitioning from a Commonwealth share of 71 per cent in 2022 to 80 per cent in 2023.

---

From: Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>

Sent: Wednesday, 4 December 2024 2:24 PM

To: s 22 <s 22 s 22 <s 22

Cc: Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>; s 22 <s 22

s 22 <s 22 s 22 <s 22

FAS FundingAndDataCollection <s 22 s 22

<s 22 s 22 <s 22

Subject: RE: PLC, [SEC=OFFICIAL]

EDUC -

Hi s 22

Proposed response to The Age below.

**Proposed response:**

- The Australian Government calculates Commonwealth recurrent funding in accordance with the *Australian Education Act 2013*, using reported enrolment and student characteristics each year.
- The *My School* Finance data indicates the total net recurrent income for Presbyterian Ladies' College (PLC) was \$43,760 per student in 2023. Of this, Australian Government Recurrent Funding accounted \$10,451 per student.
  - In 2022, PLC reported \$6,285 per student and \$9.2 million in total Commonwealth recurrent funding.
- It is important to note that funding reported in the MySchool dataset is not always comparable to the SRS, as it serves different reporting purpose. Commonwealth government recurrent funding reported by ACARA can also include other grants made under the *Australian Education Act 2013*, Indigenous Education Grants or any recurrent grants from other Commonwealth departments or agencies.

Update on the review of PLC's Capacity to Contribute (CTC) score

- The Department of Education has reviewed the 2024 CTC score for the Presbyterian Ladies' College in Burwood, Victoria. The review found the score has been calculated correctly and all quality assurance processes were met.
- The 2024 CTC score for the school was calculated using the Direct Measure of Income methodology, in line with the Australian Education Regulations 2023. The review was undertaken with reference to the *Data Quality Framework for the Australian Government's Direct Measure of Income for Capacity to Contribute* (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2020) published on the department's website: <https://www.education.gov.au/recurrent-funding-schools/resources/abs-capacity-contribute-data-quality-framework>.
- Australian Government funding for most non-government schools, including Presbyterian Ladies' College, is discounted by the anticipated capacity of a school community to contribute to the operational costs of the schools, relative to the capacity at other non-government schools.
- The Capacity to Contribute (CTC) for non-government schools is based on a direct measure of median income of parents and guardians of the students at a school, and not fees and/or other income.

For MO only

- As at Budget 2024-25, the estimated 2023 per student Standard Schooling Resource (SRS) funding amount for Presbyterian Ladies' College (the Approved Authority) in VIC is \$8,855, funded with a Commonwealth share of 80% in the year.
- Australian Government Recurrent Funding for PLC increased from \$7,602 in 2022 to \$8855 in 2023, or a 16% increase. The main driver of this increase was PLC transitioning from a Commonwealth share of 71 per cent in 2022 to 80 per cent in 2023.
- The MySchool Finance data set does show large increases between 2022 and 2023, of 66% per student and 71% in total Australian Government funding for PLC.

Thanks,  
From s 22

---

**From:** s 22 <s 22>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2024 10:47 AM  
**To:** Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s 22 <s 22>  
**Subject:** FW: PLC, [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi all – can we please get something drafted in response to below by 2pm and please check his assertions.

s 22

---

**From:** s 47F s 47F >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2024 2:52 AM  
**To:** s 22 <s 22> s 22 <s 22>  
**Subject:** PLC,

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Guys,



I'm not obsessed with this school, honest I'm not, but today's fresh NAPLAN data shows it scored an increase in Commonwealth funding of \$7.63 million in 2023, a touch under 83 per cent up on the previous year.

It's now funded to more than \$43,000 per kid, about two-and-half-times what a government school kid got in Victoria in 2022.

Are you able to have a look into this and let me know how/why they got such a big funding increase?

Happy to chat if needed.

Cheers

s 47F

--

s 47F

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s 22

**From:** Education - Media  
**Sent:** Friday, 31 January 2025 5:05 PM  
**To:** s 22 s 22 s 22  
**Cc:** Education - Media; s 22 s 22 ; s 22  
**Subject:** RE: PLC [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 22

**Proposed response:**

The Minister has considered the department's review of the 2024 CTC score for Presbyterian Ladies' College, and has requested further advice on the merits of the current approach to calculating Capacity to Contribute scores.

**Background for MO:**

The department provided its internal review of the 2024 CTC score for PLC to the Minister on 1 November 2024.

The Minister requested follow-up advice from the department on 12 November 2024, which is due to the Minister by late February 2025.

s 22  
 Ph s 22

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**From:** s 22 <s 22  
**Sent:** Friday, 31 January 2025 10:50 AM  
**To:** Education - Media <media@education.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22 <s 22 s 22 <s 22  
**Subject:** PLC [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi team

s 47F from the Age is after an update on what's happening with the Presbyterian Ladies College. Could I get an update on background by COB?

Thanks, s 22



**To** Minister for Education

**Subject** Capacity to Contribute (CTC) score for Presbyterian Ladies' College (PLC) (Victoria)

**Action date** Please review by 20 November 2024. The reason is to provide a timely outcome to the school which is aware of the review.

**Recommendation** - That you:

- 1) **note** the Department of Education has undertaken an internal review of its processes for calculating and assuring the 2024 CTC score of PLC (Victoria) and considers the score appropriate for the use of recurrent funding calculations.

noted / please discuss

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

12/11 / 2024

**Comments** (for MO use only)

see attached com to -

### Executive summary

1. At your direction and in response to *The Age* article "PLC's \$85m pool sparks probe" of 29 September 2024 (see Attachment A), the department has undertaken an internal review of its processes for calculating and assuring the 2024 CTC score of PLC (Victoria).
2. This review has concluded the 2024 CTC score has met all quality assurance processes and that there is no evidence to suggest the score is not reflective of the PLC school community. Therefore, the department considers the score is appropriate to use for recurrent funding calculations.

### Key points

#### Overview of assessment of PLC's 2024 CTC score

3. The department determined the 2024 CTC score for PLC of 103 using the Direct Measure of Income (DMI) methodology in line with the Australian Education Regulations 2023. This score is an average of the last 3 annual DMI scores, which are stable (104 for 2021 DMI, 104 for 2022 DMI, and 103 for 2023 DMI).
4. There is a high confidence in CTC scores calculated using the legislated DMI methodology and supporting framework due to the strict data quality and validation framework in place, which was developed in consultation with the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to ensure scores are fit for purpose, reliable and robust.
  - a. The 'Data Quality Framework for the Australian Government's DMI CTC', published on the department's website, sets out an extensive end-to-end statistical production process to create DMI scores, from data collection to linkage of personal income taxation data, undertaking of calculations and examination of scores, quality assurance and validation, review processes and clearance. It also puts in place a comprehensive quality assurance process which uses statistical quality gates and is reviewed annually.
  - b. Where a school's data or a DMI score do not meet the strict standards set out in this framework, a DMI score is not released and refined area based (RAB) score is used instead.
  - c. As part of the abovementioned Data Quality Framework, the ABS's evaluation of the DMI considered it to be based on a statistically sound approach which makes use of the best available data for measuring the median income of school communities.

5. There have been no quality concerns with the parental address data provided by PLC used to calculate its 2024 CTC score. Over the last 3 years, its address data has been within quality limits:
  - a. PLC has reported similar student numbers in address collection and census each year (less than 5% variation each year).
  - b. PLC has reported a small percentage of single parent addresses each year (2021–2023 ranged around **s 47F** of students).
    - i. Rates of single parents reported in the address collection can be an indicator of completeness of a school's data submission, and may warrant further investigation if there are significant variances observed year-on-year or if the rate is significantly greater than the expected threshold without a credible explanation (the threshold is defined in the Data Quality Framework and reflects that single parent families made up 16% of families with children in non-government schools in 2016 reported through the ABS Census of Population and Housing).
  - c. 98–99% of student and parent addresses reported by PLC were valid addresses.

#### *History of PLC's CTC score*

6. From 2020 to 2023, the department determined PLC's CTC scores using an area-based methodology (for example, based on the incomes of all families which reside in the same area as students that attend the school).
  - a. For 2020 and 2021, the calculated CTC score was 114 based on the area-based 2016 socio-economic status (SES) score methodology. This methodology was only available in these years as part of transition arrangements in place to assist schools transitioning to DMI.
  - b. For 2022 and 2023, the calculated CTC score was 110 based on the RAB methodology, which is used from 2022 onwards where a DMI-based CTC score is not available. A DMI-based CTC score was not available for PLC in these years because the annual DMI scores in 2018, 2019 and 2020 for PLC failed the DMI methodology validation process.
7. Due to the strict data privacy arrangements of the ABS Datalab (the platform used to calculate and validate all DMI scores and related information), the department is unable to provide specific information about the validation of PLC's DMI scores or the specific reasons for the failure of DMI scores in these years.
8. Since 2021, validated annual DMI scores have also been released for PLC, which means those scores have met a range of checks or have passed a detailed manual review. These checks include:
  - a. quality and the completeness of each input dataset
  - b. quality of linkage between datasets
  - c. coverage of income data for a school
  - d. accuracy of scores with higher rates of missing income data
  - e. volatility of scores over time
  - f. privacy checks.
9. In mid-2023, PLC requested reviews of their 2021, 2022 and 2023 CTC scores because it believed that the scores were not an accurate reflection of PLC community's capacity to contribute. PLC provided its validated 2021 and 2022 DMI scores (of 104) as evidence.
10. CTC score reviews were undertaken by the department and quality assured by an independent external assessor (the previous Auditor-General for Western Australia) who has worked with the department on previous CTC score reviews. The assessor considered the review documentation and found the department's review process for the school was appropriate and thorough, and agreed with its findings and recommendations.
11. The outcome of the reviews determined that the area-based CTC scores for 2021 to 2023 did not accurately reflect the school community's capacity to contribute, and instead a score of 104 was applied for these years and PLC's funding was adjusted accordingly. This decision was based on the high degree of confidence in the accuracy of validated DMI scores and an assessment that area-based scores are less likely to be accurate than DMI scores in this instance.
  - a. The department is undertaking further investigations into whether alternative approaches for determining a CTC score for schools without a 3-year average DMI score should be adopted, instead of applying RAB scores.

#### *How PLC's score and circumstances compare to other schools*

12. PLC's 2024 CTC score of 103 is higher than the average 2024 CTC score of all eligible non-government schools, which is 99. This results in a higher discount being applied to the school's base funding than average.
13. The school's 2023 median income was \$167,000 which is reflected in the 2023 annual DMI score of 103. The national average median income of all eligible non-government schools was between \$131,000 to \$156,000.
  - a. Please note the national average median income is provided as a range because the actual figure could be disclosive of the
    - i. DMI methodology
    - ii. median incomes of schools that have not been released from data lab for privacy reasons.
14. *The Age's* concerns focus on the school's 2024 CTC score being low in comparison to other schools based on its fees (MySchool reports an average of \$29,128 per student in 2022) and its 2023 Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) value of 1198 (compared to an average value for all schools of 1000). *The Age* also claims PLC is spending "\$85 million on a new sports complex".
15. The department has undertaken analysis of PLC's circumstances compared to other independent schools (see Attachment B).
  - a. PLC has the highest fees and ICSEA value for its CTC band; however, each CTC band has a school, or schools, where fees per student or the ICSEA value is markedly higher than the median.
  - b. Further, when taking into account PLC's high proportion of students from a language background other than English, the department has identified at least 2 other comparable schools (Tara Anglican School for Girls and St Margaret's Berwick Grammar) with similar CTC scores, ICSEA values, and fees per student which are also girls' schools.
  - c. There is minimal correlation between schools' CTC score and capital expenditure, which is expected given the lumpy nature of capital expenditure and projects. The quantum PLC is spending on capital works claimed by *The Age* is at the high end of the range for independent schools.

#### **Government policy issues and impact on other portfolios**

16. DMI was implemented based on recommendations from the National School Resourcing Board's (NSRB) review of the SES methodology in 2018.
17. The NSRB found that neither school fees nor total private income should be included in a measure, as they are not reliable indicators of CTC.

#### **Key risks and mitigation**

18. DMI quality framework provides a high level of confidence in the accuracy of PLC's CTC score.

#### **Budget impact, financial considerations**

N/A

#### **Communications and media strategy**

19. The key messages are that a departmental review has found no issues with the 2024 CTC score for PLC. There are very strict standards and processes in place for calculating and assuring CTC scores which provides a high level of confidence in these scores.
20. CTC arrangements are not calculated with regards to school fees or intended to be a proxy for measuring fees.

#### **Stakeholder consultation**

21. The review was conducted by an internal team not directly involved in calculating or assuring CTC scores. All teams directly involved with calculating and assuring CTC scores were consulted, and available data was reviewed.



22. PLC has written to the department seeking advice on this review, and the department will provide the outcome to the school once you have noted this brief.
23. Separately, the department has written to PLC to seek further information to ascertain that PLC is meeting the requirements for using Australian Government recurrent funding under the Australian Education Regulations 2023 which excludes capital works or infrastructure.

**Attachments**

Attachment A     “PLC’s \$85m pool sparks probe”, *The Age*, 29 September 2024

Attachment B     Comparative analysis of PLC’s CTC score and other circumstances

s 22

- Thank you for your advice on this matter.
- I understand that the Department uses a standardised Australian Government approach to determine a family's adjusted taxable income as a key input to a school's capacity to contribute score.
- Please provide me with advice on the merits (or otherwise) of this standardised approach as the primary input to determining a school community's capacity to contribute score.
- I appreciate this policy advice will take time and I'd like advice by late February 2025. If the work will take longer please engage with my office.
- Please also draft a letter to the Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury:
  - outlining the concerns expressed by the non-government school sector on the impact that the timing of the publication of CTC scores has, relative to their budgetary decisions for the following school year,
  - seeking his advice on how Education could work more effectively with other agencies to expedite the process of calculating CTC scores, and
  - seeking his advice about whether efficiencies can be found in the ABS processes.
- In addition, please take steps to ensure that Commonwealth funding provided to the school is spent in accordance with the Australian Education Act.



# PLC's \$85m pool sparks probe

By Noel Towell

The Sunday Age

Sunday 29th September 2024

785 words

Page 1,4 | Section: NEWS

759cm on the page

## PLC's \$85m pool sparks probe

Noel Towell  
Education editor

### Exclusive

The federal education minister is demanding answers about the public funding of an exclusive Melbourne private school after *The Age* revealed the school was spending \$85 million on a new sports complex.

The high-fee Presbyterian Ladies College (PLC) in Burwood gets thousands of dollars more in federal money per student each year than many of Victoria's top private schools under the Commonwealth's complex funding formula. But after the price tag for the 150-year-old college's aquatic and sports complex was revealed by *The Age* this month, Education Minister Jason Clare ordered his department

to review the socioeconomic assessments underpinning the \$9.2 million the school received from Canberra in 2022.

Commonwealth funding per student at the school came to \$6285 that year, 55 per cent higher than the average funding of \$4060 per student at the rest of Victoria's top 22 private schools. The above-average portion of the funding for PLC's 1471 students amounted to about \$8.25 million in income in 2022.

Only Geelong Grammar – where King Charles studied as a teenager, and where fees topped \$50,000 this year – and Catholic school Genazzano came close to PLC's per-student funding from Canberra, with \$5514 and \$5220 respectively.

Commonwealth funding per child at Victoria's government schools – which receive most of their funding

from the state – averaged \$3378 in 2022.

The higher-than-average federal funding for PLC, where year-12 fees topped \$38,000 this year, was based on a "capacity to contribute" (CTC) score – determined by the Education Department – of 103, commensurate with school families earning just above-average incomes.

But nearly 80 per cent of PLC families are in the top quarter of income-earners, and the college sits in the top 1 per cent of schools on the government's Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage.

Clare told *The Sunday Age* that he ordered his department to review PLC's CTC score.

"I have asked my department to review the CTC score for this school and how it was arrived at," the minister said.

Continued Page 4







# \$85m PLC pool sparks probe into private school funding

## From Page 1

A departmental spokesman said: "The work is under way."

PLC, which has consistently said its new \$85 million sports complex is being funded by cash reserves, private fundraising and non-government grants, told *The Age* last week: "PLC ... receives funding in accordance with the current Schooling Resource Standard."

When the new sporting complex on Burwood Road opens, PLC students will be able to enjoy a 50-metre, eight-lane swimming pool, a learn-to-swim pool, diving towers and seating for 400 spectators.

Economist Adam Rorris, who managed the federal government's school resourcing taskforce and has advised the World Bank on the economics of education, said Australia's "highly inefficient" school funding system had led to a situation where the country's

richest schools had more money

than they needed.

"What they are doing is using clearly inadequate school wealth assessment formulas to justify providing additional funding to schools that have \$85 million in the bank for capital expenditures that are clearly superfluous to a decent quality education," Rorris said.

"It can be dressed up any which way any government wants, but they're spending Australian taxpayers' money on overfunded wealthy private schools when we don't have air conditioning in public schools in the western suburbs of Melbourne, Sydney and other capital cities."

The review into PLC's funding comes as Clare remains deadlocked with his Victorian counterpart, Ben Carroll, over a new funding deal for the state's government schools.

Carroll is adamant that Victoria will not follow the example of Tasmania, which last week agreed

to sign up to a new 10-year agreement for Canberra to lift its funding commitment to 22.5 per cent of the schooling resource standard (SRS) measure, with the Tasmanian government to pay 77.5 per cent.

Tasmania joins WA and the Northern Territory in agreeing to Clare's offer, but the other states and territories, led by Victoria and NSW, continue to hold out for 25 per cent of the SRS from the Commonwealth.

Carroll's office told *The Age* last week the nation's public schools would be underfunded by more than \$600 million a year under the Commonwealth's proposal.

Private schools, meanwhile, would remain overfunded by nearly \$3 billion.

"Victorian government students shouldn't have to go without adequate Commonwealth investment in their education," Carroll said.



The sports complex being built at Presbyterian Ladies College, which will boast an eight-lane Olympic-sized pool, will cost \$85 million. Photo: Eddie Jim

FUNDING PER STUDENT

2022	Presbyterian Ladies College	Victorian government schools
Australian government	\$6285	\$3378
Victorian government	\$873	\$12,560
Fees and parents contributions	\$29,128	\$570
Other private sources	\$1849	\$328
Total	\$38,136	\$16,836

Source: myschool.edu.au, acar.edu.au



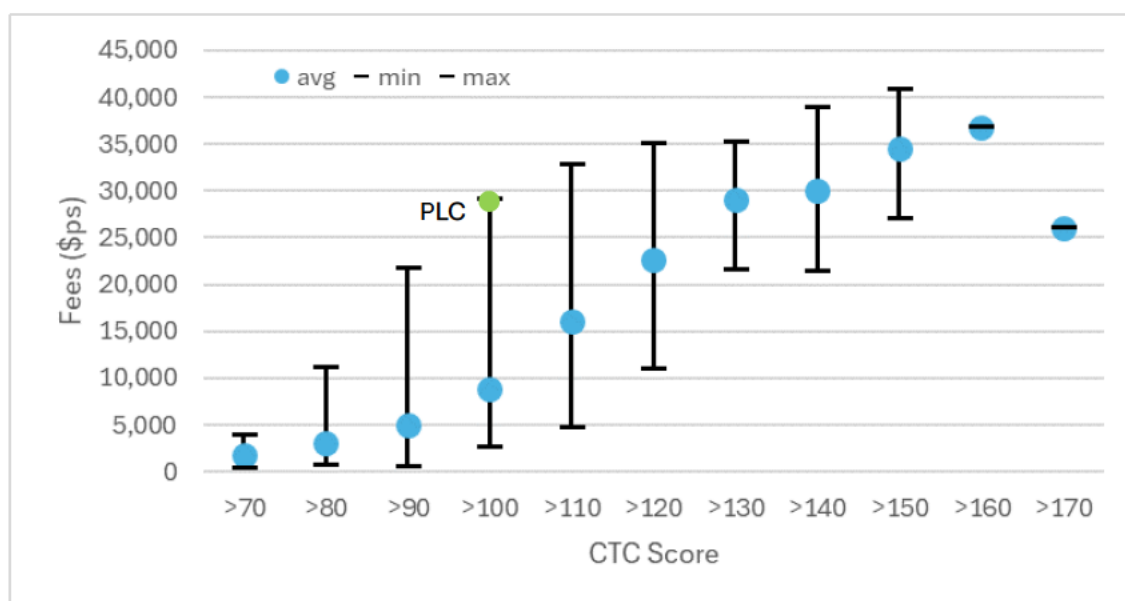
## Attachment B

### Comparative analysis of Presbyterian Ladies' College (Victoria) Capacity to Contribute (CTC) score and other circumstances

#### CTC score compared to fees per student

- While CTC is not calculated with reference to fees charged by schools or intended to be a proxy for fees, data shows there is a general correlation between CTC scores and fees. Average fees and the range of fees in independent schools increases as CTC scores go up (see Figure 1 below).
- However, the range of fees can be very wide especially for schools in the middle bands of CTC scores (scores from 90 to 130).
- This suggests that schools provide a range of choice to parents, from low-fee options for parents who decide to spend less than their assessed capacity to high-fee options for parents who decide to make sacrifices or seek financial assistance from other sources such as extended family.
- PLC has the highest fees for its CTC band, however each CTC band has a school, or schools, where fees per student is markedly higher than the median.

Figure 1 – CTC band compared to fees per student, independent schools 2022

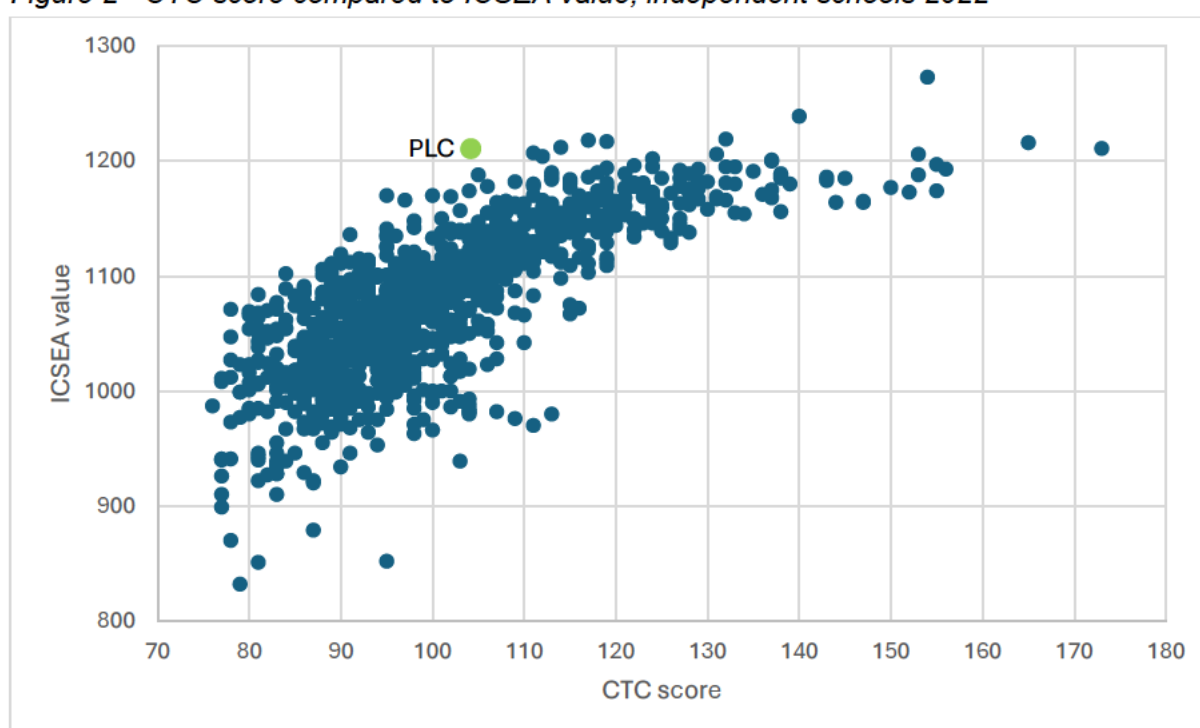


Source: 2022 fees per student sourced from MySchool 2022 Financial Data. 2022 CTC scores sourced from the Department of Education 2022 recurrent funding model. For funding purposes, CTC scores of 93 or below attract the maximum 90 per cent of base funding and CTC scores of 125 and above attract the minimum 20 per cent of base funding.

### CTC score compared to (Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage) ICSEA value

- ICSEA values are calculated based on parental education, parental non-school education, parental occupation, school remoteness and the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at a school – they do not have a direct reference to fees or income.
- The data shows there is a general correlation between ICSEA values and CTC scores. ICSEA values in independent schools increase as CTC scores go up (see Figure 2 below).
- However,.
- PLC has the highest ICSEA value for its CTC band, noting the range of ICSEA values across CTC bands are wide, especially for schools with CTC scores below 110.

*Figure 2 - CTC score compared to ICSEA value, independent schools 2022*



Source: 2022 ICSEA values sourced from MySchool 2022 Financial Data. 2022 CTC scores sourced from the Department of Education 2022 recurrent funding model. For funding purposes, CTC scores of 93 or below attract the maximum 90 per cent of base funding and CTC scores of 125 and above attract the minimum 20 per cent of base funding.

### Comparable schools

- A notable characteristic for PLC is that the school has 68 per cent of students from a language background other than English (LBOTE) in 2023. The median for independent schools nationally is 16 per cent LBOTE students.
- As part of our analysis, the Department has identified 15 independent schools with similar characteristics to PLC (see Table 1 below) – i.e. schools with more than 50 per cent LBOTE students in 2023 and per student fees in 2022 over \$20,000. All but three of these schools also have 2023 ISCEA scores in the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher, including PLC.
- While the majority have higher 2024 CTC scores than PLC, Tara Anglican School for Girls is only one point higher in terms of CTC score and St Margaret's Berwick Grammar is only 3 points higher.
- Notably, two thirds of these schools (10 out of 15) are girls' schools. Demand for these types of schools could have a role in increasing fees for lower CTC schools.

*Table 1 – Independent schools with majority LBOTE students and per student fees above \$20,000*

AGE ID	School Name	Girls' School?	Suburb	State	School Type	2023 ICSEA value	2024 CTC score	2022 Fees per student (\$)	2023 Language Background Other Than English (%)
1528	Pymble Ladies' College	Y	Pymble	NSW	Combined	1177	117	33002	54
29018	Macquarie Grammar School		Sydney	NSW	Secondary	1081	112	31111	88
913	Presbyterian Ladies' College	Y	Burwood	VIC	Combined	1198	103	29128	68
756	Camberwell Girls Grammar School	Y	Canterbury	VIC	Combined	1180	112	26731	62
2024	Tara Anglican School for Girls	Y	North Parramatta	NSW	Combined	1165	107	26625	62
1451	Meriden School	Y	Strathfield	NSW	Combined	1173	110	26343	77
1302	Abbotsleigh	Y	Wahroonga	NSW	Combined	1215	129	24684	61
87002	Westbourne College Sydney		Ultimo	NSW	Secondary	1152	124	24108	51
788	Fintona Girls' School	Y	Balwyn	VIC	Combined	1195	110	23392	67
4056	The Hills Grammar School		Kenthurst	NSW	Combined	1154	116	23333	59
1126	St Margaret's Berwick Grammar	Y	Berwick	VIC	Combined	1149	104	22263	64
13317	St Paul's International College		Moss Vale	NSW	Secondary	1077	94	21782*	63
815	Huntingtower School		Mount Waverley	VIC	Combined	1189	113	20827	70
4267	Santa Sabina College	Y	Strathfield	NSW	Combined	1153	115	20662	54
1363	Danebank - An Anglican School for Girls	Y	Hurstville	NSW	Combined	1144	111	20095	53

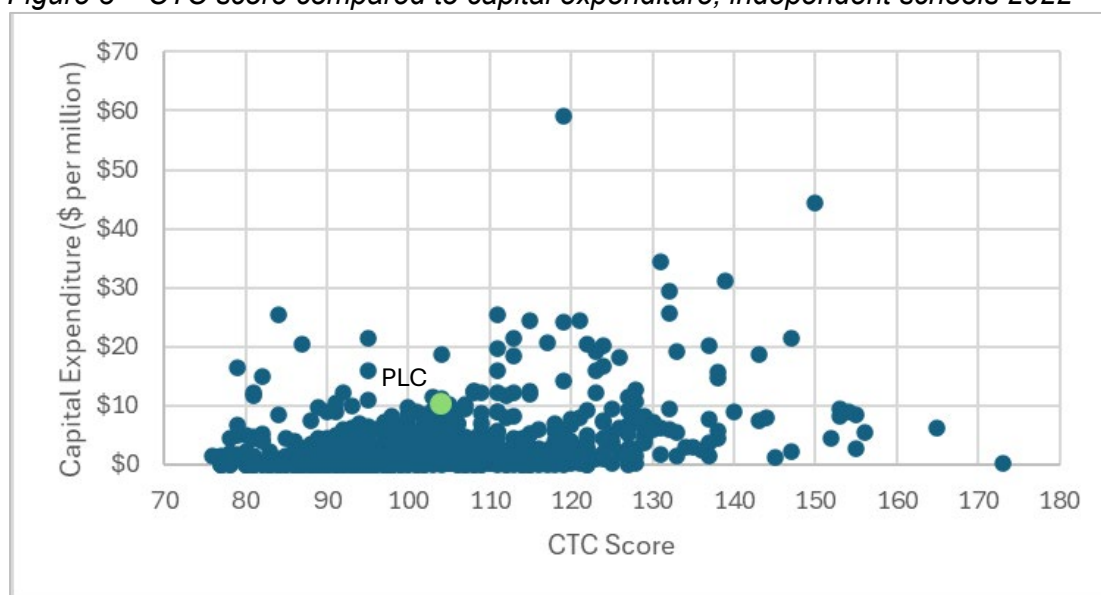
Source: 2022 fees per student, 2023 ISCEA values and 2023 LBOTE percentage sourced from MySchool 2022 Financial Data and 2023 School Profile Data. 2024 CTC scores sourced from the Department of Education 2024 recurrent funding model.

\* St Paul's International College is a small school with a high percentage of unfunded overseas students which appear to be artificially increasing the per student fees reported on MySchool.

### CTC score compared to capital expenditure

- Looking at capital expenditure, this can be funded from a range of sources including government grants, fees and other private income such as donations.
- There is little correlation between CTC score and independent schools' capital expenditure (see Figure 3 below). This is expected given the ad hoc nature of some capital funding sources such as grants and donations, and the ad hoc nature of capital expenditure, especially for larger projects.
- The quantum PLC is spending claimed by Age would be at the high end of the range for independent schools generally compared to recent historical expenditure.

*Figure 3 – CTC score compared to capital expenditure, independent schools 2022*



Source: 2022 capital expenditure sourced from MySchool 2022 Financial Data. 2022 CTC scores sourced from the Department of Education recurrent funding model. For funding purposes, CTC scores of 93 or below attract the maximum 90 per cent of base funding and CTC scores of 125 and above attract the minimum 20 per cent of base funding.

**From:** s 22  
**To:** Education - Media  
**Cc:** s 22 s 22 s 22 s 22  
**Subject:** RE: Presbyterian Ladies College review [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Monday, 14 October 2024 2:28:46 PM

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Thanks s 22

**From:** Education - Media  
**Sent:** Monday, October 14, 2024 2:09 PM  
**To:** s 22  
**Cc:** s 22 ; s 22 ; s 22 ; s 22  
**Subject:** RE: Presbyterian Ladies College review [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear s 22

It's anticipated the briefing will be with the MO by late October.

Kind regards,

s 22

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**From:** s 22 <s 22>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 14, 2024 1:19 PM  
**To:** Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s 22 <s 22> s 22  
 <s 22> s 22 <s 22>  
**Subject:** RE: Presbyterian Ladies College review [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks all. For MO only, do we have a rough estimate of when this will be complete?

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**From:** Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 14, 2024 1:18 PM  
**To:** s 22 <s 22>  
**Cc:** s 22 <s 22> s 22  
 <s 22> s 22 <s 22>  
**Subject:** RE: Presbyterian Ladies College review [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear s 22

Please see an update below regarding the PLC enquiry. I have for your information also included the response we sent to you earlier this month for The Age.

Thanks,

s 22

MO Clare (s 22) writes,

s 47F from the Age is following up the review of the Presbyterian Ladies College? Any update on this?

**Proposed response:**

- The departmental review of its processes for calculating and assuring PLC's CTC score is currently underway.

**Our previous proposed response to the MO for the Age on 2 October**

- The Minister has directed the Department to review how this CTC score was arrived at for PLC. This work will be completed over the coming weeks and sent to the Minister for his consideration.
- Capacity to contribute (CTC) is part of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) school funding arrangements, and the Department of Education calculates CTC scores in accordance with section 52 of the Australian Education Act 2013 and Division 3 of the

Australian Education Regulations 2023 (the Regulations).

o The Regulations require all CTC scores to be calculated using the direct measure of income (DMI) methodology. The DMI methodology document can be accessed on the department's website: <https://www.education.gov.au/recurrent-funding-schools/resources/direct-measure-income-dmi-methodology>

- A CTC score is a measure of a non-government school community's capacity to contribute to the ongoing costs of running the school, relative to the capacity at other non-government schools.
- A school's CTC score determines the discount the Commonwealth applies to funding the school. This percentage is applied to the SRS base funding amount.
- The DMI is based on the median family income of students at the school for that year. This is calculated by linking their parent(s) or guardian(s) names and address(es) with their personal income taxation data. The median family income is then transformed into an annual DMI score.
- The CTC score that applies to funding for a school is the average of the DMI scores for the school for the previous 3 years.
- DMI scores are assessed against a data quality and validation framework developed in consultation with the ABS to ensure scores are fit-for-purpose, reliable and robust.
- The 2024 CTC score for Presbyterian Ladies College is based on the Direct Measure of Income methodology in line with the requirements of the Australian Education Regulations 2013.
- The school's 2021, 2022 and 2023 CTC scores were determined by the delegate for the Minister for Education on the basis of a CTC score review. The outcome of this review is published on the department's website at <https://www.education.gov.au/recurrent-funding-schools/resources/outcome-ctc-score-reviews>.
- The CTC score review process is open to all CTC-eligible schools and provides for a transparent and thorough investigation if an approved authority for a school believes its school's CTC score is not accurate and has evidence to support its case. An external assessor with expertise in public audit and assurance processes reviews each CTC score review application and the department's assessment report.

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**From:** s 22 <s 22

**Sent:** Monday, October 14, 2024 10:57 AM

**To:** Education - Media <[media@education.gov.au](mailto:media@education.gov.au)>

**Cc:** s 22 <s 22

**Subject:** Presbyterian Ladies College review [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi team

s 47F from the Age is following up the review of the Presbyterian Ladies College? Any update on this? An answer by 3pm today would be good.

Thanks, s 22