



Emmaus
Christian College

emmauscc.sa.edu.au

School Performance Report 2024

**Inspiring Hearts,
Inspiring Minds.**

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A Reflection of 2024

1 Samuel 17 (The Message translation)

8-11 Goliath stood there and called out to the Israelite troops, "Why bother using your whole army? Am I not Philistine enough for you? And you're all committed to Saul, aren't you? So, pick your best fighter and pit him against me. If he gets the upper hand and kills me, the Philistines will all become your slaves. But if I get the upper hand and kill him, you'll all become our slaves and serve us. I challenge the troops of Israel this day. Give me a man. Let us fight it out together!" When Saul and his troops heard the Philistine's challenge, they were terrified and lost all hope.

34-37 David said, "I've been a shepherd, tending sheep for my father. Whenever a lion or bear came and took a lamb from the flock, I'd go after it, knock it down, and rescue the lamb. If it turned on me, I'd grab it by the throat, wring its neck, and kill it. Lion or bear, it made no difference—I killed it. And I'll do the same to this Philistine pig who is taunting the troops of God-Alive. GOD, who delivered me from the teeth of the lion and the claws of the bear, will deliver me from this Philistine." Saul said, "Go. And GOD help you!"

45-47 David answered, "You come at me with sword and spear and battle-ax. I come at you in the name of GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies, the God of Israel's troops, whom you curse and mock. This very day GOD is handing you over to me. I'm about to kill you, cut off your head, and serve up your body and the bodies of your Philistine buddies to the crows and coyotes. The whole earth will know that there's an extraordinary God in Israel. And everyone gathered here will learn that GOD doesn't save by means of sword or spear. The battle belongs to GOD—he's handing you to us on a platter!"

2024 was a year of celebration, achievement and blessings!

At the closing of the year, I was sitting in my South Plympton office. As I looked out the window to my left, I saw Junior School students joyfully playing all over the beautiful nature playground and in the foreground the new Stage 1a building (western extension) having the final coat of paint being applied to it glistening and towering in the distance. In my office to the right, I saw the artwork below by Pitjantjatjara artist Phillip Armstrong depicting the David and Goliath account from 1 Samuel 17 and beneath the artwork, Annalise Wilden's Year 12 Art project titled "Beauty in Landscapes" with clay "hands of friendship" 'gilded' with real red sand from Ernabella. It was a beautiful moment of reflection of the year that was.



Image - "Davidalu Wati Kalaitjanya iuntankunyitja"
(1 Samuelku 17)
"David Kills Goliath" (1 Samuel 17)
with clay hands



Image - The Stage 1b building nearing completion
I refer to above

During the year on Saturday 2 November 2024, we had the honour of hosting in partnership with the Bible Society the National launch of the Pitjantjatjara Children's Bible - *Godaky Tjukurpa* (God's Story) at our South Plympton campus.

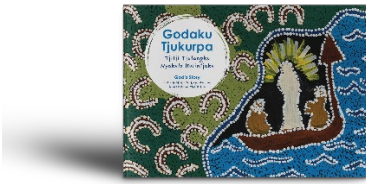


Image - The front cover of the Pitjantjatjara Children's Bible



Image - The Bible Launch event

This Children's Bible tells God's story from Genesis to Revelation using 59 unique Pitjantjatjara artworks for the first time making this life-giving story available to Pitjantjatjara children conveyed in a culturally powerful and meaningful way. This Children's Bible was a vision of the late Nami Kulyuru as a life-giving resource for her community which has now become a reality. The above-pictured clay hands covered by red Ernabella sand from the very heart of Australia in the APY Lands symbolise the long-standing relationship and friendship between Emmaus and our Pitjantjatjara brothers and sisters in Christ.

The artwork pictured above, titled "Davidalu Wati Kalaitjanya iuntankunytyja", is one of the above-mentioned 59 artworks (the David and Goliath account from 1 Samuel 17). This account reminds us firstly that we can trust that God will shape and prepare us through the experiences of our life journey for the opportunities and challenges that God is equipping us for in the future, as he did with David. Secondly it reassures us that with the mighty God by our side, there is no challenge or opportunity (giant) before us that can defeat us. It is a powerful story of God's love, preparation and protection over us all for all time – now also available to Pitjantjatjara children through cultural narrative and symbolism.

2024 was also a significant year of building and master planning at Emmaus. 2024 commenced with our Brooklyn Park students and families returning from the Christmas holidays to the new gigantic all-weather shade structure over the courts which has been such a blessing as a place to play and gather out of the sun and rain.

Our South Plympton students and families also returned to the 2024 new year with the commencement of major building works of the western extension, which steadily progressed during 2024 and is planned to be complete upon returning in 2025. At South Plympton, two other substantial projects also commenced late in 2024 and will continue during 2025:

- Stage 2a - undercroft car park and new raised hard courts.
- The development of 2 new Art and Home Economics facilities.

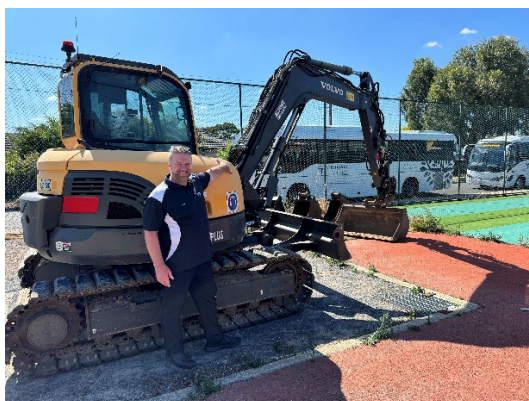


Image – Andrew Linke with the Digger (Stage 2a)

And for the first time in the history of the College, 2024 saw the commencement of a member of staff who is not human, and not 'AI' (Artificial Intelligence) either. However, "GiGi" could be referred to as 'CI' (Canine Intelligence)! Both research and lived practice has demonstrated the significant benefit wellbeing dogs have played in school settings. During the final part of 2024, GiGi commenced some early visits to Emmaus as a part of her wellbeing dog training. Her beautiful gentle temperament was quickly embraced by all who met her. Early 2025 GiGi will undertake further site visits as she progressively serves the Emmaus community in a unique and special way. The 2 G's in her name refer to God's Grace!

*Ephesians 2:8-9 ⁸ For it is by **grace** you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.*

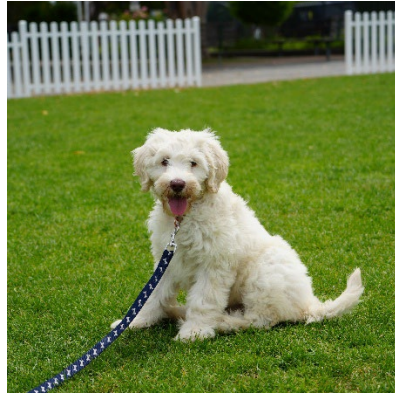


Image - GiGi

In reflection, the year 2024 was a big year of '**building**'! The obvious physical **building** seen all around us, but it was a year of other types of **building** too. It was a year of **building** deeper relationships with our Pitjantjatjara friends towards some exciting future developments (stay tuned for more in 2025), the **building** of our students physical and scholastic abilities across all learning areas and the **building** in our wellbeing space with the commencement of GiGi too!

Yet the artwork by Makinti Minutjukur which is a representation of Luke 24 from 'Godaku Tjukurpa' (God's Story Children's Bible), pictured below, ultimately reminds us of the very core Gospel message where God himself **builds** a bridge to each and every one of us using his very own son Jesus - wow!



Image - Makinti Minutjukur's – Luke 24

Luke 24:5-7 "Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 7 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'"

Above all other things 2024 was a year where Emmaus partnered with families and local churches to both disciple all of our children but also model a life of service, faith, grace and hope. Although the physical buildings and all the other type of building we celebrated is good and God honouring – this last type of building (**building the bridge through Jesus to God**) is the only one that has an eternal perspective. It is hence this bridge (Jesus) we ultimately **build our very lives on**.

Blessings

Andrew Linke
Executive Principal

2024 School Information

The pages that follow cover the school information that the College is required to provide on its website as a condition for receiving Australian Government Funding.

Contextual Information

Emmaus Christian College, a co-educational ELC-12 school, was established in 1979 to provide a distinctly Christian education. The Brooklyn Park campus caters for ELC to Year 6. The South Plympton Campus caters for Foundation to Year 12.

The school seeks to serve the broader Christian community by providing an education in accord with Biblical truths and principles, academically sound and effective in helping our students to develop their God-given skills and abilities to their best, while contributing significantly to spiritual, emotional, social and character development. Our goal is that our students will become mature Christian adults who in turn, have a Christian influence on our community and beyond, to the glory of God.

Affiliations and Governance

The school is affiliated with Christian Schools Australia, the Association of Independent Schools (SA) and the South Australian Christian Schools Association.

The College is a truly Independent School with Governance provided by a Board of Governors who meet regularly and provide oversight of the College.

Enrolments

Enrolments at the 2024 mid-year census across both campuses totalled 1123 with no international FFPOS students enrolled.

Student Body

The South Plympton campus is divided into three sub-schools:

- Junior School (Foundation to Year 6) 297 students
- Secondary (Years 7-12) 538 students

The Brooklyn Park campus is divided into Early Learning Centre and Junior School (Foundation to Year 6 in 2024):

- Early Learning Centre (3 and 4year old) 87 children
- Junior School (Foundation to Year 6) 226 students

Students of Aboriginal or Torrens Strait Islander origin:

- South Plympton campus – 3 students (0.40%)
- Brooklyn Park campus – 0 students

Students from non-English speaking background:

- South Plympton campus – 150 students (19%)
- Brooklyn Park campus – 50 students (24%)

Students who have learning adjusted through additional support from College staff and LAP volunteers and quality differentiation:

- South Plympton campus – 146 students
- Brooklyn Park campus – 57 students

Our College Program and Purpose

What do we seek to make real for our students as they move through school?

- We want students to know that they are loved by God, uniquely individual and deliberately created and that God's love towards each of us was demonstrated in Jesus. From an understanding of this, we want our students to know their worth, and become mature Christian adults.
- We see the pursuit of excellence as important. We want students to recognise and develop the unique set of abilities God has given them so that as mature Christian adults they can have a positive, Godly influence on their world. Staff contribute to this by providing an engaging and relevant curriculum and co-curricular activities that are sufficiently broad to cater for the individual interests, gifts, talents, needs and learning styles of students.
- The Word of God is central to what we do. As a College community we seek to constantly grow in our understanding of God and His call on our lives both individually and corporately. Our staff provide opportunities for students to understand the connection of the Bible to all spheres of life e.g. academic, social, interpersonal, as well as spiritual.
- We seek to have a nurturing environment where respect for both ourselves and others is to be a characteristic. We seek to:
 - foster an environment where there is a genuine respect for each individual; where each individual is recognized for their intrinsic worth – made in the image of God.
 - encourage each other so that ultimately each individual develops their gifts so that they are used for the benefit of others and to the honour and glory of God.
- We are committed to help our students be responsive to the needs of the future world they will live in and the opportunities that will be available for Christians to have an impact for the glory of God.

We call these our five “purpose” statements.

Our Education Goals

Through providing excellence in education, our aim is that young people will Belong, Flourish, Think and Respond.

1. Belong: To know others and be known.

We desire for our young people to know they belong and to flourish within community. We prioritise positive relationships; between students, teachers, parents, and the wider community. We want our students to love others and to be loved. A sense of belonging comes from our positive interactions with others, but also by learning about what has come before us. At Emmaus, we want students to know the history of humanity, how cultures have been formed and that we are an integral part of God's Big Story.

2. Flourish: Discover and grow into who they are in Christ

We believe “it's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for” Ephesians 1:11 (MSG). We want our students to discover their personal identity and image. This is best rooted in the idea of “Jesus Christ is Lord”. The Emmaus community empowers students to find their individual strengths, talents and interests. We believe that God has gifted us with these attributes for the purpose of serving the wider community, and as such, cannot be disconnected from our sense of belonging. We desire our students to increasingly become independent, so they can stand on their own two feet, thinking and acting autonomously. However, this is not for an individualistic cause. It is our desire that students know they have been designed to work interdependently with the Triune God, and others, to fulfil the plans He has for them.

3. Think: Build their knowledge, apply their skills and discern the truth

We specifically want our students to learn how to think. We believe that an effective way to teach young people how to use their God-given minds is to start by sparking their curiosity. We want students to build a broad knowledge about the world and how it works; how to understand and use language; how to skillfully move their bodies; and about the Arts and Technologies.

A deep knowledge of the disciplines provides the most effective foundation for our students to think critically and creatively in all spheres of life. Despite the importance of knowledge, we know that this alone, is not enough. Wisdom is applied knowledge. When students learn about the world and its history through a Biblical lens, young people can discern the truth when confronted with alternative perspectives.

4. Respond: Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God

At the heart of the education, we provide at Emmaus Christian College, is our desire for young people to respond to God's call on their life.

Ultimately, regardless of their future careers and occupations, we pray that our students take the knowledge and skills they learned at Emmaus, to serve the communities they join in the future. It brings us great joy to envision our students taking the sense of belonging they felt while studying at Emmaus, and using this to reach out into the world and let others know they are loved also. Both in and outside of our school gates, our hope is for the Emmaus Christian College community to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with their God (Micah 6:8).

We believe it is paramount to provide a balanced curriculum that addresses academic and spiritual needs, as well as physical and mental/emotional wellbeing in a way that is in harmony with Biblical truths.

We have a very rich and varied program of activities while at the same time keeping activities affordable for the families we serve. Some of the activities which enrich the learning of students include:

- Christian Focus: Regular Devotions; Worship as part of assemblies; Daily Prayer for and with the students; Activities focused on supporting others; Whole School Easter Service; Worship Bands; Choirs; Student Prayer Groups and Bible Curriculum across all year levels.
- Programs: Regular assessment of student progress; Early Intervention; MultiLit suite of resources; Gifted and Talented Extension; Learning Assistance Program (LAP); extensive Career Education support for students in groups and individually; Vocational Education & Training (VET) programs providing students with experience in career areas.
- Pastoral Care: Orientation Days (Early Learning Centre, Foundation, Year 7); Wellbeing Programs; Christianity, Careers and Personal Planning (CCAPP) Program; Year level Pastoral Coordinators; Rite Journey Program; Celebration Days.
- Pastoral Support Focus for families & students: Student Counsellors; Pastoral Coordinators; Parent Information nights; Parent Connect Groups and Coffee mornings.
- Co-curricular: Regular class excursions into the community; Junior Primary Garden; Class and Year level camps from Years 2-12; Rite Journey Camp; Compass Conference; Ernabella Trip to the Pitjantjatjara Lands; Vietnam & Cambodia Trip; Junior & Secondary Athletics and Swimming Carnivals; SACSA Sports Carnivals including Basketball, Soccer, Volleyball, Netball, Table Tennis and Badminton; SACSA Rijken Cup Years 11-12; Junior Choirs; Vocal Ensemble; Junior & Secondary School Productions (alternate years); Instrumental Music Nights; Battle of the Bands; Tuesdays on Flinders Concert; Henley in the Square; Inspiring Evenings; Annual Music Showcase; Australian Business Week (Year 10); Book Week; Science Week; Participation in interschool competitions such as Da Vinci Decathlon, Debating, Maths Competitions and Olympiads, Science Awards, Computational and Linguistic, Public Speaking, Tournament of Minds and Write a book in a day.

- Lunchtime and After School Activities: After-school Sporting Programs including NetSetGo Netball F-2; Netball Development Program 7-12; Soccer F-6 and Basketball F-12; Music Ensembles; Vocal Ensembles; Secondary School Worship Ensembles; Concert Band; Peer Mentoring; Peer Tutoring, Chess; Lego; Robotics; Art; Drawing and ECCO (Emmaus Christian College Outreach).
- Student Leadership Opportunities: Student Representative Councils (Junior & Secondary); College Captains (Secondary); House Captains (Secondary); House Leaders (Secondary) which include Faith & Wellbeing, Academic, Arts and Sports; Student Captains and Leaders (Junior); Friendology Leaders; Connections Groups (Peer Mentoring) and Monitor responsibilities.
- Other: Mothers' and Fathers' Day events; Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day; Graduation events at ELC, Years 6 and 12, Parent Information Nights; Year 12 Celebration (Students, Parents, Teachers); Year 12 Formal and Parent involvement in College Governance.

Teacher Standards and Qualifications

Professional Engagement

The quality of what happens at the College is directly related to the commitment of our staff team – both teachers and support staff. Our students benefit from the energetic, skilled, professional and dedicated staff of the College.

Teacher Qualifications

The College is fortunate to have a well-qualified staff, many have two or more qualifications. In 2024, teaching staff held the following combinations of qualifications:

Diploma of Teaching	5
Degree	55
Degree and Diploma	5
Degree and Post-Graduate Qualification	18
Degree and Masters	11

Workforce Composition (Full-time equivalent)

Primary Teachers	31.1 (FTE)
Secondary Teachers	42.1 (FTE)
Total	73.2 (FTE)

School Support Staff 41 (FTE)

In addition, the school employs Temporary Relief Teachers, Casual SSO Learning Support Staff, Cleaning Staff, Bus Drivers and Music Tutors. A number of staff members are part-time employees. There are no Indigenous employees.

Student Attendance

Student Attendance (%)

The percentage figure for the average student attendance rate shows the proportion of days that each student, on average, attended school over the whole year.

Attendance at each Year level

Year Level	Attendance % South Plympton	Attendance % Brooklyn Park
<i>Foundation</i>	91%	86%
<i>Year 1</i>	91%	87%
<i>Year 2</i>	92%	88%
<i>Year 3</i>	93%	91%
<i>Year 4</i>	92%	89%
<i>Year 5</i>	93%	91%
<i>Year 6</i>	93%	93%
<i>Year 7</i>	91%	N/A
<i>Year 8</i>	93%	N/A
<i>Year 9</i>	92%	N/A
<i>Year 10</i>	90%	N/A
<i>Year 11</i>	91%	N/A
<i>Year 12</i>	88%	N/A

In 2024, the average student attendance was:

- South Plympton campus – 92%
- Brooklyn Park campus – 89%

Non-attendance Management

The College provides a dedicated Student Absentee notification phone line and the SEQTA Engage App which allows parents to contact the school at any time to notify of student absences.

Whilst a medical certificate is not compulsory, it may be required for parents to obtain a medical certificate for their child/ren who attend a medical appointment if they will be absent for more than 2 days and to support special academic provision for students (F-12) or a school exemption due to long term medical conditions. Student Services will contact parents when an absence is unexplained.

When a high level of absenteeism is evident, the school will work with families to address the issue.

This may include:

- Support at parent separation on arrival at school
- Follow up by the Pastoral Care team
- Support from the College Student Wellbeing team
- Negotiation of alternative education programs and pathways

Good communication between parent/caregiver and Student Services when attendance is an issue, ensures the best outcome for students. A report will be made to DECD Attendance Officers where there is excessive unexplained absenteeism.

Senior Secondary Outcomes

Emmaus Christian College provides a number of study pathways for our students including university entrance, apprenticeships and employment. Pleasingly, 100% of students successfully completed their SACE in 2024, which is a significant achievement. The overall results are a credit to the students, their families, the teachers and wellbeing staff who all contributed to this pleasing outcome.

12 SACE Results

A majority of students chose courses that lead to university study. These students qualified to achieve an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank). The highest unadjusted ATAR for 2024 was 98.6 achieved by Yehoon Choi. A significant 25 A+ grades were achieved, including 10 Merits, awarded to the College across a range of subjects. Merits included Year 11 students for the Research Project. Also, 23% of students achieved ATARs above 90 and 9% achieved an ATAR above 95. 47.26% of Year 12 subject grades were A's as opposed to a state average of 33.75%.

Vocational Education and Training (VET)

30 Senior School students undertook VET courses (Certificates 1, 2 and 3) in 2024.

Industries covered included:

- Construction, Electrotechnology and Advanced Carpentry
- Individual Support (Disability)
- Early Childhood Education & Care
- Information Technology (Game Development Foundations)
- Agriculture
- Animal Care & Husbandry and Vet Nursing
- Baking
- Dance
- Retail
- Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways
- Business (Medical Administration)
- Christian Ministry and Theology

Highlights included 4 students attaining paid apprenticeships/traineeships in Carpentry, Baking, and Early Childhood Education & Care, while one student gained employment in the Disability sector whilst finishing his Year 12 studies. Throughout their VET studies, students completed significant workplace learning placements, facilitating industry networking and enabling employment opportunities.

Post School Destinations

Emmaus Christian College seeks to provide a range of study pathways for our students including university entrance, apprenticeships and employment. Courses offered to out 2024 graduates included:

- B Nursing
- B Midwifery
- B Dental Surgery
- B Engineering (*Honours*) (Mechanical, Software, Electrical & Electronic, Chemical)
- B Business (Marketing, Management, Innovation)
- B Education (Secondary)
- B Medical Science
- B Paramedicine
- B Aviation (Management)
- B Creative Arts (Writing)
- B Psychology
- B Interior Architecture
- B Creative Arts (Screen, Visual)
- B Criminology
- B Arts (Art History)
- B Computer Science (Advanced)
- B Information Technology (Networks)

- B Human Movement
- B Nutrition
- B Social Work
- B Design (Illustration)
- B Physiotherapy (Hons)
- B Food and Nutrition Science
- B Business (International)
- B Speech Pathology (Hons)
- B Early Childhood
- B Laws
- B Journalism
- B Computer Science
- B Forensic Science

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

Proportions of Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 meeting National Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, and Numeracy Benchmarks (Benchmark results) in 2024.

Year Level	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Year 3	100%	97%	99%	99%	99%
Year 5	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%
Year 7	97%	96%	98%	98%	98%
Year 9	98%	99%	99%	99%	95%

**Please note: Students absent for the NAPLAN assessment or withdrawn by their parents are not included in the class percentages.*

Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction with the School

Emmaus Christian College maintains a strong reputation throughout the community as a school that provides an outstanding quality education in a caring and safe Christian environment. In 2024, the College's NAPLAN results were on average 11.1% above State averages across Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. Similarly, 49% of 2024 Year 12 students ATAR's were in the top 20% of the State. High student performance is a key indicator for student satisfaction with the College, which similarly results in high levels of parent satisfaction.

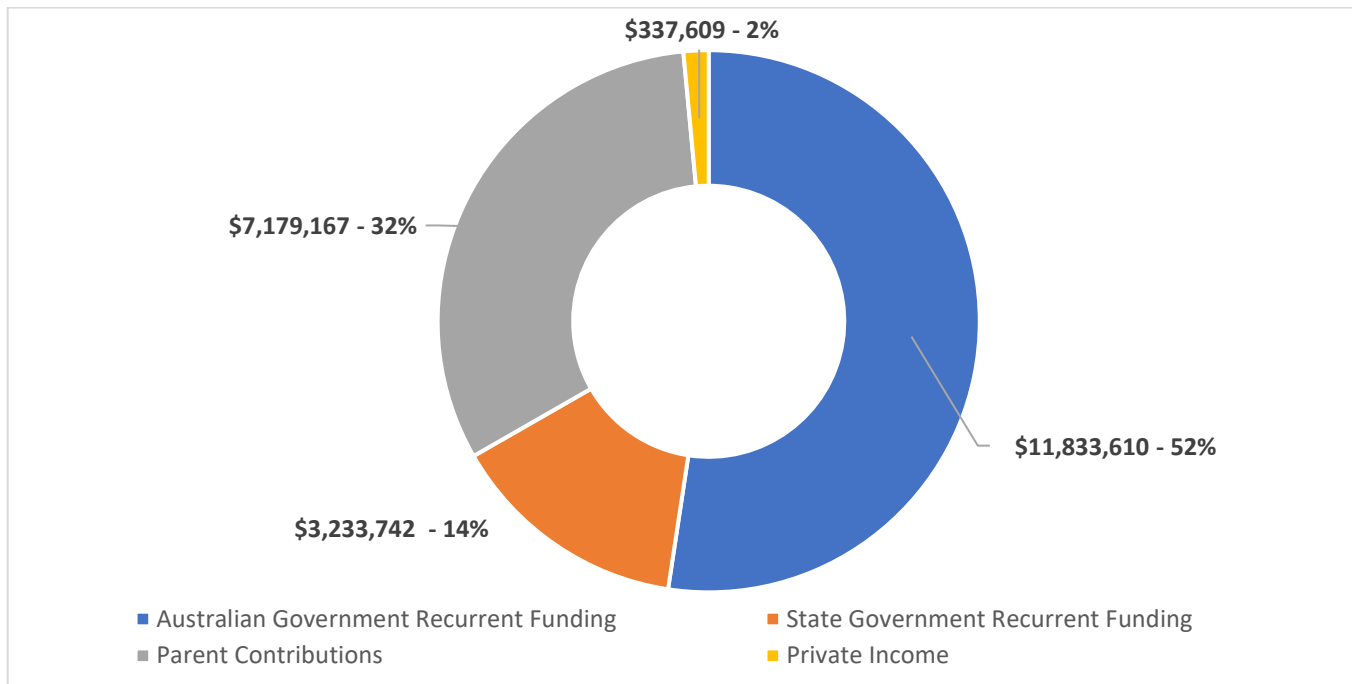
The College regularly receives parent letters, emails, and anecdotes expressing their appreciation towards the College and commenting positively on various aspects of the College including:

- Quality of teachers and teaching
- Well-structured learning environment
- The strong Christian community values
- Seamless student transitions throughout the College (F-12)
- Authentic and caring pastoral care
- Continually improving College facilities
- Support of differing student needs
- The College Outdoor Education and camps program
- Our support of families with limited financial capacity

Similarly, Emmaus' staff community is extremely stable and long serving, presenting a high degree of staff satisfaction and demonstrates the College as an employer of choice. As staff numbers continue to grow, the new staff complement the large proportion of staff with over 20 years of continuous service.

The collective experience and wisdom of our staff is our most important College asset and is responsible for the outstanding success of our students and associated parent satisfaction.

Sources of Funding



Australian Government Recurrent Funding

*Income from funding provided by the Australian Government for recurrent purposes** **\$11,833,610**

State Government Recurrent Funding

\$3,233,742

*Income from funding provided by the South Australian State Government for recurrent purposes**

Parent Contributions

\$7,179,167

Income received from parents for the delivery of education services to students

Private Income

\$337,609

Includes Building Fund donations; any profits or losses from trading activities (eg ELC, Uniform Shop, Canteen, Bus service); Interest income, (excluding State Capital Grant)

**(Recurrent purposes are the ongoing costs of operating a school including staff salaries and school operating costs.)*