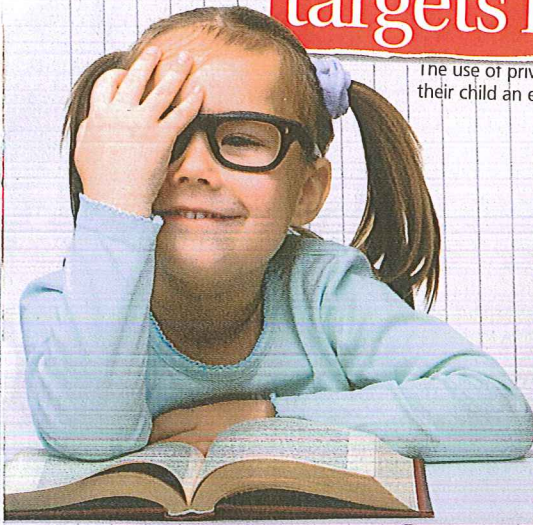


# Private tutoring targets learning needs



The use of private tutors has skyrocketed recently as parents rush to give their child an edge. **Belinda Connolly** discovers why.

Figures show a sustained increase in private tutoring over the past five years and it is unlikely the demand will fall any time soon.

For some parents it makes more sense to pay a tutor a weekly fee than to pay exorbitant private school fees, and if the child can gain a scholarship to a private school thanks to the tutoring, the money saved is significant.

Mohan Dhal, chief executive of the Australian Tutoring Association, said tutors could make significant differences to the academic success of students.

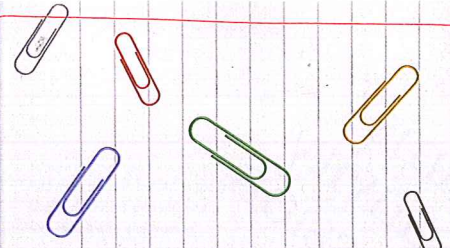
"Private tutoring offers significant benefits for students and their families," Mr Dhal said.

"It allows [parents] to target the learning needs and goals of the child and to boost the confidence, self-esteem and problem solving abilities of students.

"Good tutors assist in identifying areas where a child needs support and sets about remedying those issues."

He said most students are tutored in years 4 to 5 and years 10 to 12, and English and maths are the most popular subjects.

"Year 4 or 5 is about the earliest that signs emerge in regards to children needing remedial support if they are struggling academically," he said.



## What to look for

Before hiring a tutor ask them:

- What are your skills and qualifications?
- What is your refund policy?
- Can I see your 'working with children check' or background police check?
- How will you measure the success of the tutoring and how often will I get feedback?

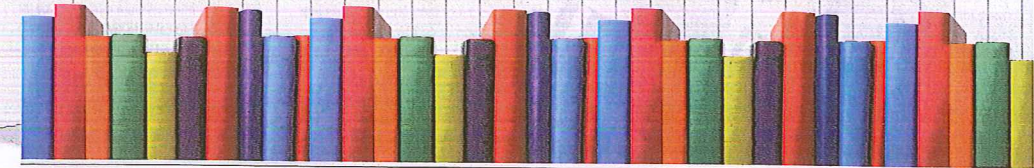
"It is also the time when parents are making decisions about high school and may seek private tutoring in order to assist their child gain access to an OC class."

Parents hoping for their child to be accepted into an academically selective school may use a private tutor to assist their child in the lead-up to the Selective Schools Test.

"Parents may use also tutoring as an investment that can be rewarded

through the gaining of an academic scholarship into a private school, saving tens of thousands of dollars a year," he said.

Hourly rates depend on the skills, qualification and reputation of the tutor with university students charging anywhere from \$15 to \$40 an hour, compared with a qualified teacher who can charge \$35 to \$100 per hour.





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