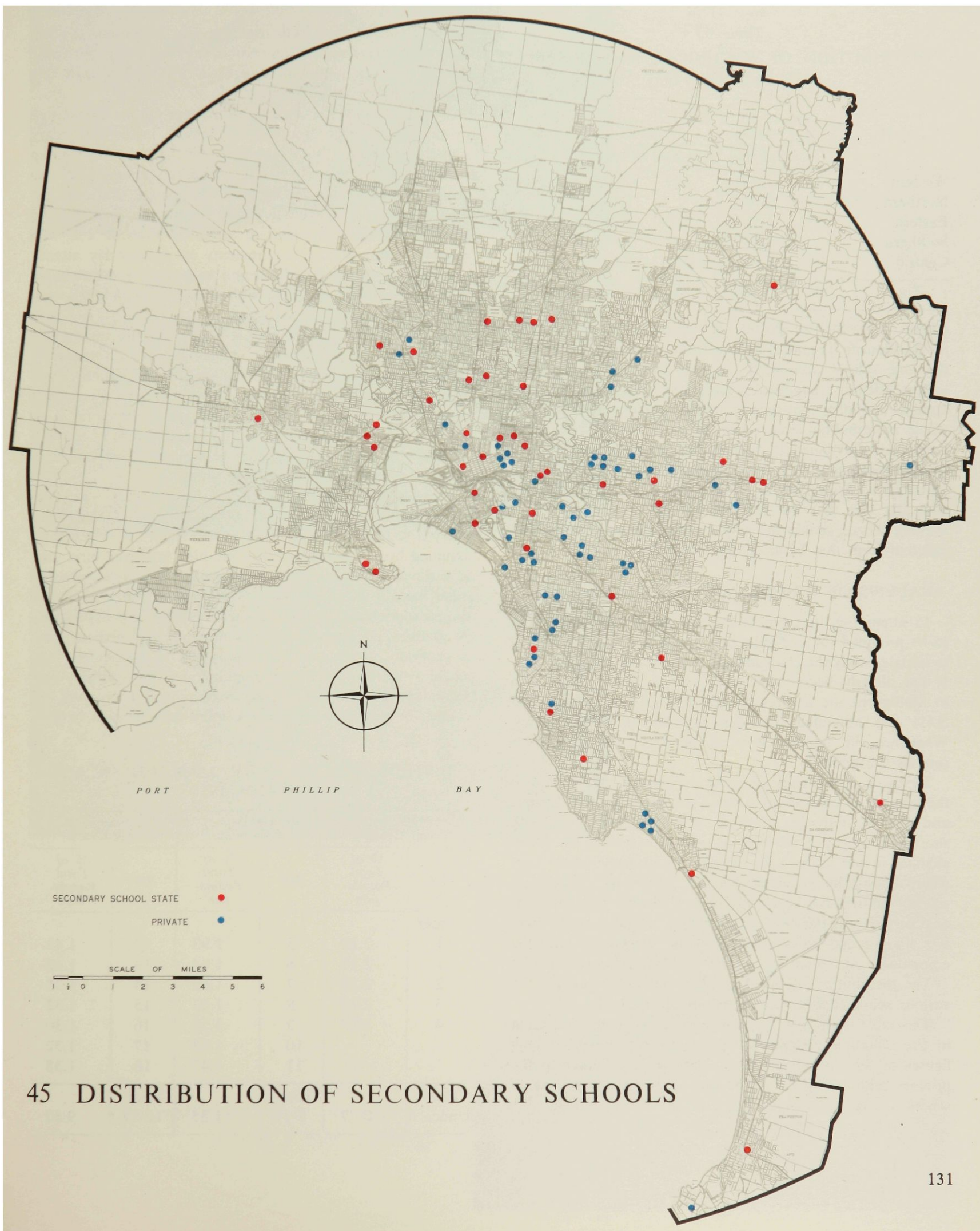


# 44 DISTRIBUTION OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS





## 45 DISTRIBUTION OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS



Table 63

DISTRIBUTION OF TECHNICAL SCHOOLS IN  
MELBOURNE, 1951

District	No. of Schools	Enrolments			Total
		Juniors	Seniors		
		Full time	Full time	Part time	
Western	2	1,371	169	2,021	3,561
Northern	3	2,041		1,647	3,688
Eastern	3	1,688	443	2,083	4,214
Southern	5	2,777	202	3,692	6,671
Central	7 <sup>(1)</sup>	1,629	1,422	14,636	17,687
Total	20	9,506	2,236	24,079	35,821

schools is the high proportion of senior students who attend the Melbourne Technical School from all suburbs. In 1951 this one school accounted for two-thirds of all full-time seniors attending Diploma schools and nearly half the total number attending part-time technical courses throughout the whole metropolitan area. The junior technical schools are fairly well distributed throughout the planning area in relation to population, but the senior schools are more central and tend to draw from a much wider area. This, together with the fact that the majority of senior students attend evening classes, makes the matter of their location somewhat different from that of most other secondary schools.

## ANALYSIS OF SCHOOL AGE STRUCTURE

In attempting to estimate the number of school children to be provided for in Melbourne in the future it is essential to initially study the changing age structure of the population. It has already been shown that 10.5% of the population in Melbourne are at present attending primary schools and 3.5% are attending secondary schools of various types. What are the figures likely to be when the population reaches 2,500,000?

Firstly, it is necessary to relate the present attendances to the number of children existing in the respective age groups, and then to study the trend of such age groups over both short and long periods with a view to assessing the likely changes in the future. In the case of primary school ages where education is compulsory the percentage of primary school children can be closely related to total population at any period. In the case of secondary schools, where there is a sharp reduction of students in the age groups after the compulsory age limit of 14, the problem is more difficult.

The distribution of the Australian population among the various school age groups is set out in Table 64.

This table illustrates at a glance the considerable variation in the school age structure at the present time, the high figures in the pre-school group, the medium figures in the primary school group, and the low figures in the secondary school age group. These variations are directly attributable

to the changing birth rate over the past 20 years—the low birth rate following the depression, and the rising birth rate during the war years followed by a still higher birth rate in the post-war period.

Whereas today the average percentage of the population in any primary age group is 1.65% and in any secondary school age group 1.36%, the figure in the pre-school group is 2.15%. As the survival rate of children passing from one group to another is over 99%, it is apparent that over the next 10 years the average figure within the primary and secondary groups will tend to move up towards 2%. To estimate future school requirements on present-day attendance figures would therefore tend to greatly under-estimate the future position especially with regard to secondary school requirements.

Irrespective of future population growth the number of children now in the under 5 age groups will automatically result in considerably higher figures in the primary and secondary age groups over the next 10 years. For short-range estimates of up to say 15 years therefore it is obviously desirable to work on an average figure of not less than 2% of the total population being in any one year of a primary or secondary school age group.

For long-range estimates of 30 to 50 years when the population could reach 2,000,000 and 2,500,000 respectively a somewhat lower figure is indicated. It is generally assumed by demographers that the high post-war birth rate is a direct result of the war and will not persist. On the other hand it is not expected to decline to figures as low as those experienced during and after the last world depression. A gradual levelling off to a somewhat intermediate level is generally anticipated. For purposes of long-range estimates a figure of 1.75% of population in any primary and secondary year would appear reasonable. There will, of course, be periods when such a figure may be high or low,

Table 64

DISTRIBUTION OF AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL AGE  
GROUPS, 1950

Pre-School Age Group		Primary School Age Group		Secondary School Age Group	
Age	% of Total Popula- tion	Age	% of Total Popula- tion	Age	% of Total Popula- tion
Under					
1	2.28	5	1.93	12	1.43
1	2.15	6	1.84	13	1.42
2	2.18	7	1.63	14	1.35
3	2.29	8	1.67	15	1.32
4	1.87	9	1.53	16	1.30
		10	1.48	17	1.32
		11	1.47	18	1.38
Total		Total		Total	
Under 5	10.77	5-11	11.55	12-18	9.52

(1) Includes three special single trade schools.