



# CATHOLIC EDUCATION – FOR A STRONGER COMMUNITY

## UNDERSTANDING THE FACTS ON FUNDING FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

For over 180 years, Catholic schools have educated children in Australia. Today, Catholic schools enrol 735,000 students in 1,706 schools across Australia.

Both major parties have committed to increases in school funding over the next four years. It is important to understand the facts on funding for Catholic schools.

One-in-five Australian students currently attend a Catholic school.

Catholic schools have a strong social justice mission to form well-rounded individuals who make a positive contribution to their local communities.

A strong Catholic education system contributes to a strong Australian community.

All governments provide important funding for Catholic schools along with families who contribute to the costs of Catholic education through fees and fundraising.

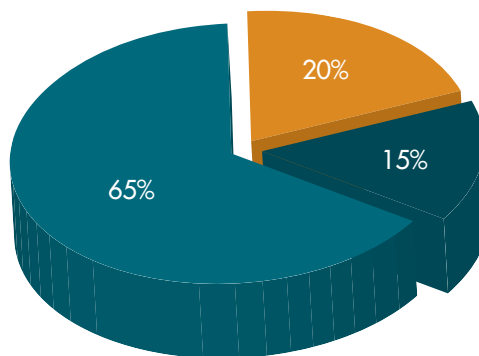
According to the Australian Government's My School website, Catholic students receive, on average, 20 per cent less government funding than students in government schools.

Even when parent fees are taken into consideration, Catholic schools operate with an average of 10 per cent less recurrent funding than government schools.

Even with fewer resources per student, the Australian Catholic school system is amongst the best in the world, compared to Shanghai, Finland and Singapore on international tests, for student performance across all socioeconomic backgrounds.

Catholic schools save the taxpayer \$2.2 billion each year which helps take the pressure off government schools.

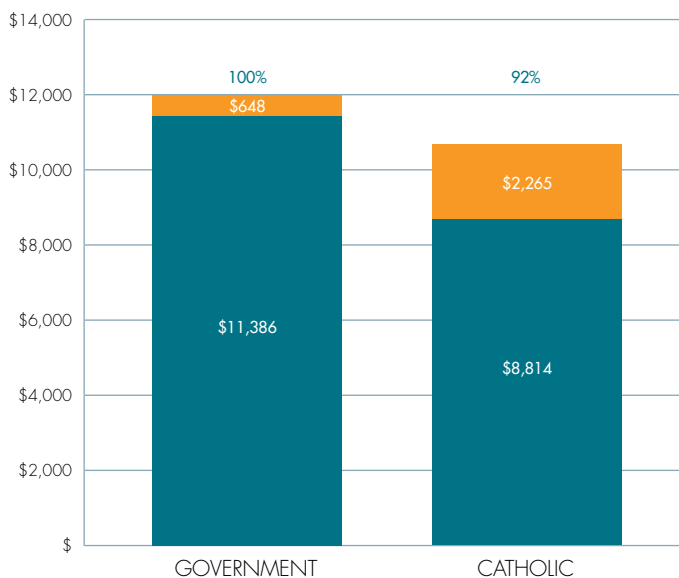
## PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS PER SCHOOLING SECTOR



- Government Schools
- Catholic Schools
- Other Non-Government Schools

Source: ACARA, *National Report on Schooling in Australia*, 2011

## AVERAGE NET RECURRENT INCOME PER STUDENT - GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS & AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMIC CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



- State/Territory and Federal Funding
- Parent Contributions

Source: ACARA, *My School* 2011



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## CATHOLIC EDUCATION POLICY PRIORITIES

Catholic education is seeking a statement from both major parties on their education policies and how they will affect the 735,000 students educated in the 1706 Catholic schools across Australia.

Both major parties have been asked the six questions below. Their responses will be provided in the near future.

## POLICY QUESTIONS

1. How will your policy support parents to choose the education they want for their children and ensure religious freedom for Catholic schools is preserved?
2. How will your policy affect the ability of Catholic education systems and schools to distribute funding according to locally-identified needs?
3. How will your policy deliver additional government funding to support student needs and ensure funding keeps pace with the real cost of educating a child?
4. How will your policy support the needs of students with particular disadvantage, students with disability and other special needs to receive funding to meet their needs, regardless of the school they attend?
5. What government funding for the capital needs of Catholic schools do you have planned? Does this funding recognise Catholic education's support of disadvantaged communities and willingness to establish in new growth areas?
6. How will your policy deliver funding certainty for schools?

Catholic education will continue to work with all parties in the Parliament to ensure that Catholic schools have the resources to support the needs of all students.



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