

5 September 2022

## **Dear parents and carers**

The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) appreciates your continued support for your child's learning during the last two years and we thank you for your patience as we have navigated new ways of teaching and learning.

We write to you today to outline our plan to meet growth in student numbers in the Catholic sector and its benefits to you and your family.

As the approved authority for Catholic education in Victoria, your child's education is of the utmost importance to us.

At CECV, we proudly represent 500 schools including yours and support 32,000 teachers and support staff who provide high quality education to more than 211,000 students across the State – and we continue to grow.

As a result, we have developed a plan for the Catholic education sector that will ensure our schools can keep up with growing demand into the future and our students have access to school infrastructure, which meets all the needs of a modern and evolving curriculum.

## **Our plan for the upcoming Victorian State Election**

Catholic families already pay their fair share and shouldn't be expected to pay more.

That's why in the lead up to the State election in November, we will continue to put forward our case to the major political parties and seek a significant commitment towards capital funding of \$150-200 million per annum over four years.

This funding will go towards building new schools in growing communities and updating and maintaining our existing and ageing school buildings.

All our students deserve to learn in fit-for-purpose school buildings and grounds that support their learning and personal development.

We will also be seeking a commitment to increase recurrent and capital kindergarten funding to give every child the best start in life and ease the financial pressure on families that choose a Catholic kindergarten for their child.

Catholic students deserve equal access to Victorian Government health and transport programs, and we will be seeking additional commitments in these areas. Fair access for Catholic students to the already established Smile Squad dental program will lead to better and more equal dental health outcomes.

Extending the Victorian Government's School Bus Program in regional and rural areas will give Catholic students equal rights to use the bus to travel to school and end situations where one child from a family can use the school bus, but their sibling is denied that right.

We also want to see the targeted funding for teacher recruitment expanded to include Catholic schools in regional, rural and hard to staff areas, so that students in those areas can continue to receive a high-quality Catholic education.

The full list of the commitments we are seeking from the major parties is on our website at [cecv.catholic.edu.au/funding](http://cecv.catholic.edu.au/funding).

### How you can help

We know you understand the value that choice in education provides families like yours and we ask that you visit our website and sign up to lend your support and keep updated as our plan progresses.

We thank you for your support and together, we will ensure our plan and its benefits can be achieved.

On behalf of,



Jim Miles  
Executive Director  
Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools



Tom Sexton  
Executive Director  
Catholic Education  
Ballarat



Paul Desmond  
Executive Director  
Catholic Education  
Sandhurst



Maria Kirkwood  
Director  
Catholic Education  
Diocese of Sale



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