



Sydney Catholic Schools

23 June 2017

Dear staff, parents and carers

With the passing of the Gonksi 2.0 legislation in the Senate last night, I take this opportunity to share with you what this means for our Sydney Catholic schools.

Thanks to your support over the past month we were able to share with our federal politicians our grave concerns about the schools' funding model that was originally proposed. In recent weeks, more than 14,000 parents signed our petition calling for a review of the funding model to ensure a fair deal for our schools.

As a result, with a clearer understanding of how our low-fee schools strive to fulfil our mission of accessible Catholic education for all, the Government has made significant concessions that were recognised by Parliament. In particular, these were:

- i. An inclusion in the legislation of the ability to continue to work as a system of schools to allocate resources where required to best meet student needs. As a consequence, I can now reassure families that there will be NO increases in school fees beyond our standard 'cost of living' adjustments (between 2% and 5%), for at least the next three years; and
- ii. A 12-month period in which funding for Catholic schools remains unchanged, thereby enabling a review of the Socio-Economic Status (SES) model which is used as a basis for funding decisions.

Notwithstanding the Government's concessions, over the longer term, the Catholic schools community across Australia remains disappointed that the Government has set the level of indexation for low-fee Catholic schools below the rates applicable to other non-government and government schools. Independent analysis suggests that our Catholic system of schools, across the nation, will be financially disadvantaged in the order of \$4.6 billion over the next ten years. Consequently, Sydney Catholic Schools will continue to advocate to all sides of politics for a more equitable financial outcome for our children.

Thank you once again for standing in solidarity for our children, and our wonderful system of Sydney Catholic Schools.

Dr Dan White
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