

Fair funding for every school child



The Australian Government's Quality Schools funding reform has received significant media attention and public scrutiny.

Catholic Education South Australia supports moves towards a school funding system that is fair and equitable for all Australian students. We are also encouraged that the Federal Government intends to address the anomaly in the funding of Year 7s in South Australia.

The question remains: what does this mean for children in Catholic schools in South Australia?

Based on our financial modelling we believe that, while the proposed funding changes will have a minor impact in 2018, we have serious concerns about the financial impact that these changes will have on our schools in the medium to long term. Our forecasts show increasingly negative consequences in future years.

If the original Gonski commitments were honoured Catholic Education South Australia would be an estimated \$30 million better off in 2018-19.

Catholic Education South Australia calls on the government to:

- 1. Use a funding model that is fair**
- 2. Review its funding methodology** including:
 - Review the use of SES (Social Economic Status) as the measure for determining funding levels
 - Reinstating the use of the System-Weighted Average SES score for system funding
 - Base the "capacity to contribute" calculation on a more accurate measure of the financial position of families
 - Base the indexation of funding on the real costs of education
 - Ensure a quick transition to equalisation of funding.
- 3. Preserve the autonomy of Catholic Education and ensure that the sector retains the ability to distribute funding according to justice and equity principles**
- 4. Ensure students with disability receive funding which enables them to fully access the curriculum**
- 5. Engage in timely and appropriate consultation with the Catholic sector.**

We will continue to engage in robust conversations both through the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) and directly with the Federal Government to ensure students in Catholic Schools in South Australia are not disadvantaged.

Our commitment to offering a quality affordable Catholic education to our community remains firm.

Bruno Vieceli, Interim Director, Catholic Education South Australia.