

Media Release
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Catholic Education SA welcomes school funding commitment

Families who choose a non-government schooling option will continue to be supported after the Federal Government today announced important changes to its school funding arrangements.

Catholic Education South Australia Director Dr Neil McGoran welcomed the announcement stating that we support the package of measures released today.

“The 2017 funding model threatened the future of low-fee, faith-based schools in remote and higher socio-economic status (SES) areas. It meant that many families would not have been able to afford to continue the education of their children at their school of choice,” says Dr McGoran.

“The SES methodology was flawed because it assumed all families living in the same suburb were equally wealthy, which is not the case. The reality is low-fee schools draw a higher proportion of students from lower income families and therefore need more funding support.

“The new funding arrangements will re-assess the socio-economic status (SES) of parents at non-government schools in a more accurate way. This is good news - not only for families with students in Catholic schools - but for all South Australian low-fee non-government schools.

“It’s important for Australia to have a strong government school sector and an affordable non-government schools sector working side by side to educate our students.

“There are some technical aspects of the school funding model that need to be resolved. I’m hopeful that, for the foreseeable future, this will put our schools on a much firmer foundation and put an end to the pressure of funding uncertainty.”

There are 103 Catholic schools in South Australia educating around 46,000 primary and secondary students.

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