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.