Bipartisan support guarantees massive investment in Catholic education

Bipartisan support to legislate financial security for Catholic education provides the certainty needed to meet a growing demand for Catholic schools and ensures they remain affordable to Victorian families.

Premier Denis Napthine today committed to maintain annual funding for Catholic education at 25 per cent of the cost of a government school education, in a policy welcomed as sensible, transparent and fair to all.

Executive Director of Catholic Education, Mr Stephen Elder, says the direction of the major parties recognised the importance of providing parents with genuine choice in education.

"Every child deserves the best start to life and that child’s family deserves the right to government support, no matter which school they choose," Mr Elder said.

"Real choice helps families provide what’s best for their children. Through continued enrolment growth in our schools that choice is also an enormous benefit to government schools.

"Without a strong Catholic system, state schools would feel the strain of larger class sizes and extra pressure would be imposed on the public purse.

"I thank the Coalition for its vision, in particular the pledge to link recurrent funding of our schools to 25 per cent of government school costs," Mr Elder said.

Catholic education has also received the political and financial support of both major parties to build new schools and improve existing facilities through a four-year, $120 million capital works allocation.

Catholic school parents previously provided 85 cents in every dollar spent on building and repair works, while their neighbours at government schools were not required to contribute to capital funding at all.

"Capital expenditure combined with secure, ongoing recurrent funding allows us to immediately launch into further development of the personalised learning that sets us apart and allows families the choice they desire," Mr Elder said.

"The financial stability to provide extra care and attention for families with special needs and still maintain our low fee structure is, I believe, a great outcome for all," Mr Elder explained.

More parents are choosing Catholic education than ever before, with 488 schools in Victoria representing almost twenty-five per cent of all students.

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