

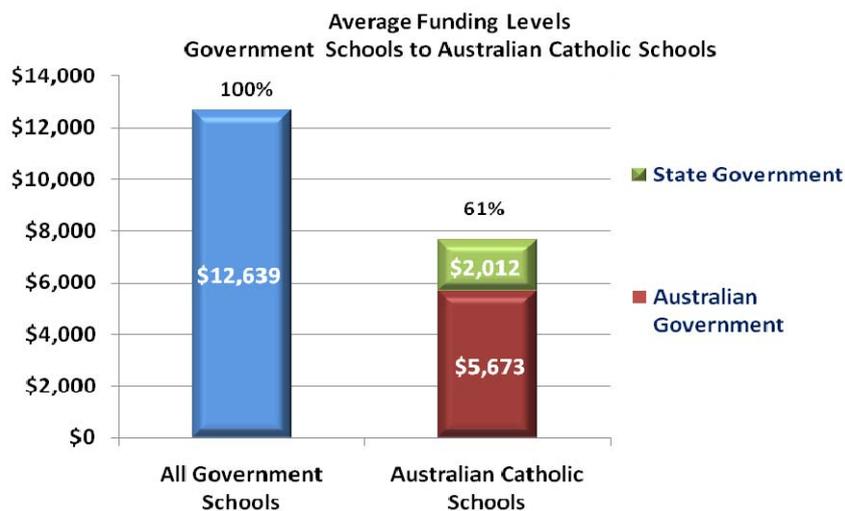
Publication of School Financial Information

Letter to Parents

Dear parents,

The "My School" website, set up by the Federal Government, already publishes a range of information about our school. From December 3, 2010 the website will also include additional information about our school funding and income along with spending on capital/building projects.

The information is designed to show the resources available to different schools. Our school is funded by Australian and State Government grants as well as by your school fees and other contributions. On average, Catholic schools receive 52% of their income from the Australian Government, 21% from State Government and the rest, 27%, is made up by contributions from parents and the community. As illustrated clearly by the graph below, it is important to note that Catholic schools on average receive only about 61% of the total government funding received by State schools. (2008 National Report on Schooling figures)



Every school is unique in its circumstances and the families it serves, and there is a range of factors that affect the level of government grants and other income received. These factors include things such as a socio-economic status score, rural or remote location, numbers of Indigenous students or students with special needs and the timing of building projects, among others. Catholic schools in Queensland have also agreed to work together to help allocate government funding in the fairest way possible according to a needs criteria.

Fees and levies for our school are set by our own school Parish/Board or Diocese taking into account the costs of operating our school that cannot be met by the government grants received. We need to strike a balance in setting fees which allows us to keep our school viable, while providing a quality education comparable with State schools that are fully funded by government. Our philosophy in Catholic education is to strive to make our schools accessible to all families who seek their values.

While we acknowledge the importance of existing levels of government funding for Catholic schools, we also encourage government to recognise that parents make a significant financial contribution to supporting their children's education. Any increase in government funding not only assists us to provide a better education for your children, but also relieves pressure to increase school fees.

The funding of Australian schools is an important, and in many ways, complex issue. For a detailed explanation about the funding of Catholic schools, I would encourage you to access information developed by the Queensland Catholic Education Commission and available at www.qcec.catholic.edu.au

If you have any particular questions or queries regarding this matter, as always, I invite you to contact me directly.

Kind regards

Principal