



4 May 2017

Dear Colleagues

School Funding

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As you are aware, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Education Minister Simon Birmingham announced a new 10-year school funding plan on Tuesday 2 May 2017. Increased government funding to school education recognises the importance Australians place on the liberating and life giving benefits of a quality education for all children and young people. Fair and just funding arrangements for all schools and sectors is the admirable goal of the new funding model.

Unfortunately at this stage there is very little detail from the Government in relation to the announced plan and how it may directly affect Catholic schools over the next 10 years. For this reason the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC), the peak representative body for Catholic Education at the Federal level, and the State Catholic Education Commissions are yet to support the plan. Catholic schools collectively are the second largest provider of education in the country. Parents already make significant financial sacrifices to send their children to Catholic schools. Detailed and comprehensive information from the Government is critical in determining impacts on schools and families.

NCEC is seeking urgent discussions with the Government to be able to advise Diocesan systems, Catholic education authorities and schools, exactly how the new funding plan will affect them.

Please encourage your parent body to write to your local Federal MPs to express the desire for more consultation and detail in regard to the new funding arrangements.

Thank you for your leadership at this important time in the history of Catholic education in Australia.

Yours sincerely

Dr Frank Malloy
National Director
[Marist Schools Australia | Marist Centre Sydney](#)