Dear Parents/Carers

The ACT election is now just a few days away. The election has provided an important opportunity for us to raise the issue of fair and sustainable territory government funding for St Joseph’s School. As an ACT Catholic school we receive the lowest levels of state/territory government funding of any Catholic school in Australia!

Did you know that for each dollar of territory government funding going to a student in an ACT government school your child at St Joseph’s School receives just 17cents? * By choosing to send your child to St Joseph’s, as a Catholic school in the ACT, you are saving the ACT taxpayer more than $152 million per year.

What We Have Asked For:

1. **Provision of land in new growth areas to provide parents a choice for a Catholic Education**
   Catholic Education is the second largest provider of school age education in the Territory after the ACT Government. Catholic Education needs to be given priority allocation of suitable land to allow choice in education for the new communities and for Catholic Education to continue to play its significant role in meeting the Territory’s need for school age education.

2. **Meeting the needs of students with disability**
   Between 2009 and 2016, the number of students with disability attending Catholic schools increased by 83%. Parents choosing Catholic schools are seeking Territory Government financial support to ensure a student with a disability receives the same level of support regardless of the school they attend;

3. **A commitment to progressively increase recurrent funding by 2020**
   Catholic Education seeks a commitment to increase recurrent funding from the ACT Government to 25% of the average cost of educating a student in an ACT Government school with an annual 'cost of living' increase in funding for Catholic schools proportionate to increases in ACT Government schools.

Why Are These Commitments Important?
Achievement of these commitments will ensure a sustainable base for Catholic Education into the future.

At a school level the additional funding will assist to provide additional resources to meet school and student needs such as student support services, students with disabilities, information and communication technology costs and student wellbeing. It will also mean that increases to school fees and levies would be minimised.

Later this week the Catholic Education Commission will be publishing for all schools, the response from all the major parties to the commitments listed above. You are urged to consider the positions of the parties and if elected what their policies will mean for our school.

The responses will provide a very real policy difference for Catholic Education

Yours
Sue Dempsey
Principal

*ACARA MySchool Website, February 2015*