

Dear Andrew,

I write to raise my concerns regarding the impact of the Federal Government's funding plan on Catholic schools.

- The funding model proposed by Minister Birmingham will make it harder to provide an affordable, holistic education option in a Catholic school.
- I do not think that the funding model is fair for parents in all schools. As an example, students at Catholic schools in Canberra already receive the lowest level of government funding per student of any State/Territory Catholic System.
- In 2015 a child attending an ACT public school received around \$14,000 per annum in government funding. This compared to government funding for a child at a Catholic school of around \$9,000.
- Under the funding plan ACT Catholic schools will have funding decreased while Commonwealth funding to ACT Government schools will increase.
- The funding reductions are based on a Socio Economic Status (SES) measure determined from Australian Bureau of Statistics census data. This measure determines the allocation of government funding to children in Catholic schools. There are reasons to believe the measure is highly flawed.

Overall, I am concerned that it will be harder for parents to access an affordable, holistic education in a Catholic school.

Yours faithfully,