

St Joseph's P-6 School

Growing in excellence within a Christ-centred community



11 May 2017

Dear parents and carers

Re: School funding cuts for Catholic schools

You will be aware that the Australian government announced this week that there will be a new funding arrangement that will cut funding to Catholic schools in the ACT over the next ten years.

A cut of such magnitude will have a significant impact on the Catholic system and we will be faced with tough decisions to cover any shortfall including raising fees and reducing costs. I have been assured that Catholic Education will do everything it can to hold fees as low as possible.

This week I received a letter from Education Minister Simon Birmingham, that confirms our funding will be cut over the next ten years.

I have attached that letter for your information however I stress that Catholic Education is currently reviewing the figures to confirm their accuracy. We have been advised that while we know funding will be cut we should treat the figures with caution until they can be confirmed.

The school funding debate is complicated and surrounded by misinformation. To support you, Catholic Education has produced some simple key points.

You are encouraged to:

- Take this information and share it with your friends, including on social media.
- Contact your political leaders and ask
 - why funding for your child is being cut while other students are receiving increases?
 - how your child's school is expected to cover the gap? and
 - explain what will be put at risk in what you value about the school, as a result of these cuts.

I appreciate this is an unusual request but is necessary in the circumstances. In conjunction with the Director of Catholic Education we will be doing everything possible to help the Australian Government understand the consequences of these changes.

Your sincerely,

Sue Dempsey
Principal