

# MEDIA STATEMENT

June 21, 2017



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## MEDIA STATEMENT FROM NCEC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRISTIAN ZAHRA

As the Senate today debates the future of Australian schools and students, the National Catholic Education Commission is again calling on Senators to vote against a plan that will not deliver needs-based funding.

More than 24 hours since the first media reports of a proposed "concession" for Catholic schools, the NCEC has still not heard anything from the Turnbull Government – formally or informally.

Any commentary that the concerns of Catholic education have been addressed and allayed is false. How could they be without any discussion having taken place with the NCEC?

Cross-bench Senators need to know that representatives of Catholic education have not had any conversations with the Minister or his office in the past 36 hours about how to fix the many problems with this troubling legislation, despite having met with the Minister on Monday and comprehensively setting out our deep concern about the legislation.

The Minister continues to run a "policy via the media" approach and is using that strategy to confuse his colleagues in the Senate and give the impression he has in some way addressed the concerns of the Catholic education sector.

Concessions – real or imagined – won't fix the problems with this rushed legislation.

The best course of action for the Minister and the Government continues to be withdrawing the legislation and finally, after ignoring educators throughout this process, sitting down with Catholic, government and independent school leaders to devise a school funding model that will deliver genuine needs-based funding for all students in all sectors.

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