



Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham

Minister for Education and Training
Senator for South Australia

Principal
St Joseph's Primary School
PO Box 646
DICKSON ACT 2602
sue.dempsey@cg.catholic.edu.au

Dear Principal

I am writing to you about the Turnbull Government's commitment to deliver on Mr David Gonski AC's recommendations for fairer, needs-based schools funding from 2018 and what it means for your school.

I'd like to acknowledge the important work you and your staff do each and every day to provide our children with the best possible start in life.

To help ensure you have the necessary funding to meet the needs of the children in your school, the Turnbull Government has announced an extra \$18.6 billion in funding on top of already record and growing funding for Australian schools over the next 10 years.

Commonwealth school funding will grow each year by more than \$1 billion. This will be real growth for students, well above inflation or wages growth.

This will bring our total 10 year investment to a record \$242.3 billion.

We are committed to ensuring that this additional funding is allocated fairly between states, sectors and schools, and is based on the needs of students.

As envisaged by the 2011 *Review of Funding for Schooling*, led by Mr Gonski, we will ensure payments are calculated with a base amount per student and additional loadings for Indigenous students and students with a disability, as well as those from language backgrounds other than English, from disadvantaged backgrounds, and those attending small and remote schools.

We will end the special deals made by the former Government that have resulted in students with the same need within the same sector being treated differently just because of the state in which they live. Under our new model, the same student with the same need in the same school sector will be treated the same by the Australian Government across states, ensuring Commonwealth funding is allocated to where it is needed the most.

As a result of these reforms, a small number of schools may see a small reduction in Commonwealth per student funding as we move to the new arrangements. Current estimates indicate that your school may be one of these schools.

Based on current modelling and your latest enrolment figures as reported to the Commonwealth Department of Education and Training, St Joseph's Primary School is estimated to see an increase of \$1,000 funding from 2017 to 2018. We estimate an average annual per student decrease of 0.8 per cent over the ten years that will result in a total decrease from 2017 to 2027 of \$279,200.

It is important to note that as part of a system, Commonwealth funding attracted by your school is paid to the system. They may choose to reallocate funding between schools in their system, and have the autonomy to finally determine the amount your school receives.

An additional \$39.8 million adjustment fund will be established to provide financial assistance to vulnerable schools that face a reduction in funding per student and your school may be able to access this funding. My department will be consulting with the National Catholic Education Commission in the development of guidelines for eligibility for financial assistance and operation of the fund.

Funding entitlements will be set in legislation to ensure certainty for schools and we will therefore be seeking the support of the Australian Parliament to secure these new arrangements.

To underpin our increased investment, Mr Gonski has agreed to lead the *Review to Achieve Educational Excellence in Australian Schools*. It will provide advice on how the extra Commonwealth funding should be invested to improve Australian schools' performance, and grow student achievement.

The Review will be finalised by the end of 2017 to align with the Australian Government's new approach to schools funding from 2018, and the findings will inform a new national schools agreement and bilateral reform plans with states and territories.

Information about the new arrangements and how they will work is available at www.education.gov.au/qualityschools. There you will find fact sheets and a 'school funding estimator' that will indicate what the new arrangements mean for your school. I encourage you to share a copy of this letter and information with your school community.

Further advice on the adjustment fund will be provided to you once funding guidelines have been finalised; however, if you have any questions in the meantime, please email my department at SchoolsTransition@education.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Birmingham', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Simon Birmingham

8 May 2017