MEDIA RELEASE
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FUNDING FOR ACT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS— THE FACTS

Director of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, Mrs Moira Najdecki has expressed her extreme frustration that funding for Catholic Schools in the ACT continues to be misrepresented in the media.

Catholic schools educate more than 18,000 children – one in four ACT children in 32 schools across the Territory. Yet according to the MySchool data published this year, Catholic schools in the ACT receive for each student, on average, only 63% of the combined government funding that government schools receive for each of their students.

Mrs Najdecki said, “A child in an ACT Catholic school receives the lowest amount of funding per student from governments than any other State or Territory in Australia. An ACT Catholic school student attracts, on average, combined Commonwealth and Territory funding of $9126 whilst a child in an ACT Government school attracts on average $14,447.”

Chair of the ACT Catholic Education Commission, Associate Professor Patrick McArdle said ‘Local Catholic schools in the ACT are funded on a system – wide basis. No single school within the Catholic system is funded directly by governments. Governments provide funding to the Catholic Education Commission which then distributes the funding based on the needs of the schools across the system.’

Public school advocate, Trevor Cobbold, by singling out individual Catholic systemic schools, continues to display a lack of understanding of how Catholic schools are funded under the Gonski model.

The determination of the SES score of 101 for ACT Catholic Schools through the Gonski model recognises particular circumstances in the ACT relating to SES and represents the national average of all Catholic school systems. It acknowledges that Catholic schools in the ACT had historically not received adequate funding in comparison with ACT Government schools.

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