

Media Release

Catholic education welcomes capital funding boost for low fee schools

Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW) said today it welcomed the NSW Government's increase to capital funding for low-fee non-government schools.

The Sunday Telegraph today reported that the NSW Government will provide an extra \$32 million in capital funding in 2018-19 for the state's non-government school sector, which comprises almost 950 mainly low fee schools.

CSNSW Chief Executive Officer Dallas McNerney said any funding support from the NSW Government was always appreciated.

"We are pleased that the NSW Government supported our pre-Budget submission for additional capital funding because it means less pressure on our parents to fund much needed capital works," Mr McNerney said.

"Our 11 NSW Catholic schools offices have already planned for enrolment growth of almost 10,000 students over the next three years, which will involve up to 11 new schools and the expansion of 41 existing schools.

"More than 80% of the funding required for this growth currently comes from parents who already pay taxes that support all school sectors on top of the fees and building levies they provide to support Catholic education.

"On their behalf, we will approach both sides of politics ahead of the 2019 election in an effort to seek a longer term funding arrangement."

Mr McNerney said the one-off increase takes the NSW Government's contribution to around \$65 million for this state's 944 non-government schools, before reverting to around \$33 million the following year.

Based on its enrolment share, the Catholic sector receives almost two-thirds of the state government's capital funding support for non-government schools.

Mr McNerney said CSNSW prioritised all the government funding it receives for capital projects to those Catholic schools with the least ability to raise funds.

"Capital funds from government go to the Catholic schools that need it most.

"This year, we allocated all state government funding to support 12 projects in places like in Nyngan, Wyalong, Branxton, Lewisham and Toormina, as well as in growth areas like Marsden Park and Edmondson Park."

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