

Fair Funding for Catholic Schools



Every child's education is affected by the decisions and policies of our State Government.

This flier provides a simple summary of the key issues that Catholic Education South Australia believes are important to ensure that every child receives the best education possible.

We encourage you to make an informed decision when you vote in the State election on March 17.

Shaped by our Catholic faith and in partnership with families, our schools are communities which create opportunities for encountering life to the full – in all its personal, religious, political, ecological and cultural richness. We make a significant contribution to the vitality of our State educating 46,000 students. We:

- help young people to thrive
- develop capable and competent learners in the pursuit of academic excellence
- nurture creativity and encourage our students to become good citizens and leaders who strengthen our community.

In the lead up to the State election we asked Political Parties to respond to a number of issues that are important to Catholic Education South Australia and families in our schools. All six of the major parties have acknowledged the significant contribution of Catholic Education South Australia and respect the right of parents to choose the school that best meets the needs of their child. On the next page is a summary of their responses.

We encourage you to read the full statement made by each party, including any additional promises, on our website:

What our schools need...

POLITICAL PARTY RESPONSES

	Australian Conservatives	Dignity Party	The Greens SA	Labor Party	Liberal Party	SA Best
Recurrent Funding South Australian Catholic schools need to be funded at no less than the national average level of State Government funding. The State Government allocated a significant increase in recurrent funding in November 2017 which brought Catholic schools near to the national average.	Support new recurrent funding allocation ✓	Support new recurrent funding allocation ✓	Support new recurrent funding allocation ✓	Labor Party has committed additional funding and now we are near the national average ✓	Support new recurrent funding allocation ✓	Support new recurrent funding allocation ✓
Capital Funding Until recently, SA Catholic schools received no capital funding from the State Government. Our schools need funding for capital works such as buildings and refurbishment. In November 2017, the State Government allocated capital funding of \$5.5 million per annum (indexed).	Support new capital funding allocation ✓	Support new capital funding allocation ✓	Support new capital funding allocation ✓	\$5.5 million annually (indexed) ✓	Support capital funding allocation of \$5.5 million annually (indexed) as a minimum ✓	Support increase to \$7.5 million annually (indexed) ✓
Access to buses in rural areas Some students in rural and regional Catholic schools have difficulty accessing a government-funded bus to school. We want the Government to provide school bus access for all eligible students.	Support unrestricted access	Government should ensure all students get to school	All students should receive free public transport		Will seek to ensure that Catholic students have fair access to school buses	Committed to tackling any disparity
Utilities The State Government announced it will pay all utility costs (electricity, water, gas) for every government school and pre-school. We want the program extended to include Catholic schools.	Support appropriate contribution to costs	Government should consider providing assistance	Broadly supportive of addressing utility costs		Promising a 15% drop in electricity bills across SA (no specific promise to schools)	Committed to tackling any disparity
Year 7 in secondary Catholic Education SA is moving Year 7 to a secondary setting in most schools by 2019. We seek recurrent and capital funding to support this move.	Support the transfer of Year 7 students	Support transfer of all Year 7s into a secondary setting	Want government to support Year 7 move	No further specific funding for Year 7s moving into secondary settings	Support Year 7 move into secondary setting and will fund accordingly	Support transfer of all Year 7s into a secondary setting
Early Learning Centres We want to establish a number of Early Learning Centres to meet the growing demand in South Australia. We seek recurrent and capital funding to establish these centres.	Support recurrent and capital funding	Requested more information	Broadly supportive of funding Early Learning Centres			
Vision for the North We want to respond to the significant social and economic challenges facing many young people and families in parts of Adelaide's northern suburbs. We seek a significant government partnership to support this project.	Support Vision for the North	Requested more information	Support initiatives for the North	Open to receiving proposal		
Laptops for students The State Government recently announced that a \$70 million Laptops for Students program will provide every Year 10 student in a public school with a laptop computer. We want the program extended to include Catholic schools.	Support laptops for Year 10s	Laptops available earlier and consider the needs of all students				Commence from Year 7 for disadvantaged students
High speed internet The State Government recently announced high speed broadband upgrades for public schools and preschools. We want the program extended to include Catholic schools.	Support access to high speed internet	All schools should have access to high speed internet		Broad commitment to ultra-fast internet for SA businesses, homes and schools	Will seek to include non-government schools particularly those with high need	Committed to tackling any disparity
Support for children with special needs The State Government recently announced an allocation of \$57 million to help children with special needs in public schools. We want the program extended to include Catholic schools.	Support fair funding for children with special needs	Students with disability should get the funding support they need		\$450,000 over three years to improve access to Allied Health services	Parent workshops focused on dyslexia and other learning difficulties	

We encourage everyone to consider how their vote will impact the education of children in Catholic schools.

Whether you are a parent, grandparent, parishioner, teacher or a part of the wider Catholic community we encourage you to **make your vote count!**



VOTE
for your child's
education

www.cesa.catholic.edu.au