



26 July 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Thank you again for your support during the COVID-19 lockdown at the end of Term Two. As we commence a new school term, I trust community vaccination numbers will continue to increase and the likelihood of future lockdowns will diminish.

As you are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has placed a range of additional demands on our system. The increased cost burden facing our schools was the subject of a recent meeting with our State's Minister for Education and Training, the Hon Sue Ellery.

We provided the Minister with our annual budget submission and reinforced our role as a significant contributor to not just to the education of your children, but the broader social and economic well-being of Western Australia.

Our budget submission seeks equity for our schools on a range of key funding measures, both in one-off grant programs and in recurrent funding structures.

Specifically, we have asked the State Government to:

- Provide recurrent indexed funding for an additional 50 school psychologists;
- Provide equitable funding under the new National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement to all government and non-government schools;
- Replace the current scheme of Low Interest Loans (LIL) for capital expenditure with capital grants, especially for remote and regional schools, to deliver world class education infrastructure and ease the debt burden on Catholic school communities;
- Review outstanding low interest capital funding loans to Catholic schools and refinance to provide fairer rates in line with current commercial debt finance options;
- Provide up front funding for education infrastructure to Catholic schools rather than staged payments to allow long term planning and contract awarding for infrastructure works;
- Ensure equitable distribution of funds for early years education to Catholic schools;
- Provide proportional recovery support funding to COVID-19 affected Catholic schools; and
- Allocate school funding for the achievement of wider State Government policy objectives equitably among government and non-government schools.

These measures would ensure students are treated fairly and given access to an equitable level of funding support. They would also ensure that as taxpayers, you see a fair investment from the State Government in your child's education.

My thanks go to those parent groups who have worked with their Principal and already organised or held meetings with their local Members of Parliament. It is important that schools organise a Meet Our Member forum in the weeks ahead. We continue to work closely with

Catholic School Parents Western Australia who will provide guidance in preparation for any forums at your school.

This will ensure members of the McGowan Government are fully aware of the contribution we make as Western Australia's seventh biggest employer and that your local MP understands you are seeking a fair share when it comes to State Government funding, recognising the significant financial contribution you already make to your child's education.

We continue to work with you as providers of quality, Christ-centred and child-focused education enabling students to achieve their unique potential.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Sayce". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Debra Sayce
Executive Director