



# Catholic Education Archdiocese of Brisbane

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25 May 2017

Dear parents and caregivers

I would like to assure you that – despite what you may have seen reported in the media – there will be **no major increase in school fees in our Brisbane Catholic Education schools for 2018.**

Earlier this month, the Federal Government released figures outlining its planned funding allocation for schools in 2018 and beyond. It also produced a calculator on its *Quality Schools* website which purported to show funding figures for each school for 2017 and 2018. These figures are **not** an accurate reflection of the money **actually received** by each school. This is because – as the government’s website itself notes – the amounts listed **do not take into account the impact of the Catholic Education system’s “group funding” arrangements.** (Under this system, all federal funding for Catholic schools is pooled together, and then redistributed according to a needs-based formula which reflects locally-identified areas of need.)

Thus, the raw federal funding figures listed on the website **are not reflective of the actual amounts received by each Catholic school**, now or in the future. Some schools will receive more than the figures listed on the website; others will receive less.

Next year, Brisbane Catholic Education, as a system of schools, will receive a federal funding increase which we currently estimate to be around 3%. We will receive an **increase** in government funding, not a reduction. We thank the Federal Government for its continuing support and for its commitment to providing fair and equitable funding over the next decade.

Catholic schools have not as yet begun the process of budgeting for 2018, so cannot give you a definitive fee schedule for next year at this time. However, I can assure you that **next year’s fees will be similar to this year’s, with a projected increase of somewhere around the 3% mark**, in line with the increase in our operating costs.

If you would like to see accurate funding figures for each school, these are available on the My School website, and show the amounts contributed by federal and state governments, as well as your contribution through school fees.

In the coming weeks and months, we will continue to work with the federal government to finalise a funding arrangement which is fair and equitable to all sectors, and to all students and families. We believe the government’s current plan does disadvantage Catholic schools in comparison with independent and state schools. We are hopeful of a satisfactory resolution of these issues, so that all students across Australia receive a fair share of government funding.

Thank you for your continuing support.

**Pam Betts**  
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