August 2012

LETTER TO PARENTS and CAREGIVERS

Dear Parents and Caregivers

The Australian government is currently reviewing funding for all schools and it is likely that the government will propose new funding arrangements that will be debated in the Federal Parliament sometime later this year or early in 2013.

These new arrangements could have significant consequences for the funding received by our school. I believe it is vital that you are aware of the facts about school funding. We will need your help to defend the right of Catholic schools to the government funding we need to continue to offer a quality education and keep fees as low as possible.

There has already been a lot of misinformation about school funding in the media. In particular, claims have been made that Catholic and other non-government schools receive more funding than State schools. These claims are simply wrong.

The Myschool website shows that in 2010 each student in a Catholic school received only three quarters of the government funding received by State school students.

Even when parent contributions through school fees and donations are taken into account, Catholic schools operate at only about 90% of the funding level of State schools.

Catholic schools in Australia also deliver significant support for disadvantaged students. Every year, Catholic schools educate more and more students with special needs.

Catholic schools are community schools that strive to be open and inclusive to all who seek their values. Catholic schools educate 1 in 5 Australian children and they should not be penalised in any way by this funding review.

Over the coming weeks, I will provide you with more detailed information about funding in our school newsletter. I encourage you to take an active interest in this information and participate in this funding debate.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours in Faith, Growth and Unity

Georgia Dennis
Principal

More information about Catholic school funding can also be found at: www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au