



Catholic School Parents

Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn

Catholic school parents unite to fight funding cuts

Catholic school parents are joining forces to resist government funding cuts that are putting pressure on school fees and impacting on Catholic school enrolments.

The head of Catholic School Parents Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn (CSPACG), Paul Compton, said many Catholic school parents are already under considerable stress to pay existing fees and many simply will not afford the calculated fee hikes under the new funding proposal.

“This could not come at a worse time for Catholic schools. Family budgets are being continually stretched. Now in the middle of making enrolment decisions, we are faced with the uncertainty of possible fee increases,” Mr Compton said.

“Schools are reporting that enquiries are down and parents are rightly asking ‘how can I commit to six or more years of Catholic education when there is so much uncertainty around fees.’”

“Prospective parents are opening the paper to the headline ‘Canberra schools losing funds’ and under that story is an advertisement inviting them enrol in a Catholic school. It is no wonder enrolments are being effected.”

“We are really confused how some bureaucratic model from government can say that our parents have the capacity to pay higher fees when we know first-hand what a struggle it already is.”

“At the same time Catholic school funding is being cut I read that government schools in the ACT will receive a 145% boost over the next ten years.

“Our parents are proud of their schools and proud to be making a co-contribution along with government towards the cost of educating their children. But budgets can only stretch so far and many will be tempted across the road to increasingly stretched government schools.”

“It was seen on Monday night at the Public meeting that parents are very angry about these changes and we will deliver that message to government in very strong terms.”

“Some of us still remember the infamous Goulburn school strike and this government would do well to remember that important lesson. We will certainly be reminding them.”

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