



## Catholic Schools Office Diocese of Broken Bay

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Dear Parents and Caregivers

### **SCHOOL FUNDING UPDATE**

In response to parents' concerns about school fees, last week I met with a group of principals to discuss developments regarding Catholic schools. I would like to share with you key outcomes from that meeting.

### **SCHOOL FEES**

**For the next five years total fee increases will be in the range of 1.5 to 3% each year.** In determining the level of fee increases I have taken into account the likely future rate of inflation, the general pattern of wage increases and expected increases in teachers' salaries. Fees will not increase by more than 3% in any year unless there are major unforeseen government changes to school funding beyond our control.

In light of local circumstances in the Diocese of Broken Bay, it is my strong view that school fee increases over the longer term will remain in this range. I hope this will help parents to plan for the future education of their children with more certainty.

**In cases of hardship, no child now or in the future will be denied a Catholic Education if that is the desire of the family.**

The Australian Education Act now clearly confirms the ability of Catholic Education systems to share funds according to their own needs-based assessment. This is the case for the 44 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Broken Bay. This ability allows all our schools to keep their fees stable even if events change locally from year to year.

### **REVIEW OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS**

Further to my recent advice, I would like to provide a further update for all parents on the Review of the Socio-Economic Status (SES) and school funding. Submissions to the Review have closed and findings of the Review are expected to be made public mid-2018.

Broken Bay Catholic School Parents made a submission and included parents' testimonials from Broken Bay, for which I am very grateful. The National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) made a submission on behalf of all Catholic schools across Australia. It is extremely important the Catholic sector sends out a clear, united message. The NCEC submission was based on input from key stakeholders including Catholic Schools NSW (our peak representative body on which Bishop Comensoli is a Director) and from Directors of Catholic Education (including myself on behalf of Broken Bay systemic schools). The submission argued strongly that Catholic Education must remain affordable thereby providing parents with real choices for their children's education.

### **THANK YOU**

I believe that our Catholic schools provide a quality education in a caring and spiritually nurturing environment. I would like to take this opportunity to again thank all parents and caregivers for their commitment to our schools. I acknowledge and appreciate the sacrifices parents make in order for their children to receive a Catholic Education.

Yours sincerely

Peter Hamill  
Director of Schools