

FUNDING SECURED

FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN VICTORIA

Dear parents and carers,

Catholic schools across Victoria have secured a major funding boost ahead of the Victorian State Election on 26 November 2022.

As you are aware, over the past few months the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) has been advocating to the major Victorian political parties for a \$150-200 million per annum commitment towards significant capital infrastructure for our schools, amongst a range of other important initiatives.

Both the Labor Government and the Liberal Nationals Opposition have made commitments to supporting Catholic schools and students in recognition of the value and important role we play in the education system.

The Labor Government have committed \$717 million for non-government schools and kindergartens if re-elected. This includes \$450 million towards school capital



Minister for Education, the Hon Natalie Hutchins MP, visits staff and students at Cana Catholic Primary School, Hillside.

infrastructure that will see an initial five new Catholic schools built in growing suburbs across Melbourne's north and west and expanded capacity at 13 others. Labor have committed to 70% of this funding for Catholic schools.

For our youngest students, Labor have committed \$250 million in dedicated funding to build and upgrade kindergartens at Catholic schools. This will mean children who begin their school life at a Catholic kindergarten can seamlessly transition to a Catholic primary school, making life easier for many of our families. The Liberal Nationals Opposition has committed to funding upgrades at existing kindergartens.

A further \$17 million will see the expansion of the Smile Squad Dental Program to low-fee Catholic schools. This is a free dental check-up for all students, which we know will lead to better dental outcomes for our students and help alleviate cost of living pressures on Catholic families.

The Victorian Liberal-National Coalition has also committed \$700 million in recent weeks towards capital infrastructure for non-government schools if elected, which will enable new schools to be built in growing suburbs and the upgrade of many of our existing and ageing buildings.

Both commitments are above what each party committed in the 2018 State Election, which is a testament to the strength and quality of what we offer in our schools and their contribution to the community. This is very positive for all Catholic students and their families, and an important acknowledgement of all your advocacy to date.

As a result, we encourage you to write to the Premier Daniel Andrews and Opposition Leader Matthew Guy to express our collective thanks for their support.

We look forward to unpacking the details of these commitments in the coming weeks and what they look like for the growing number of students in Catholic education, who all deserve to learn in facilities that are modern, fit for purpose and in line with community expectations.

Thank you for promoting our priorities to your family and friends and for your continued support.

Jim Miles
Executive Director



Shadow Minister for Education the Hon David Hodgett MP announces a \$3 million commitment to capital upgrades at St Peter Julia Eymard primary school, Mooroolbark, with Parish Priest Fr Joseph Lu Xin and principal Greg Thomas.

Nothing from the Greens

The Directors of Catholic Education have written to the Victorian Greens Party Leader asking for their commitment and support of our plan to address growing student demand, but at the time of publication had not received an acknowledgement, or a direct response.

The Greens describe themselves as “a true friend of education” yet have made no commitments to Catholic students or their families.

Other independent candidates

So far, independent candidates have chosen to focus on their own individual and local campaigns, having made no commitments towards Catholic education more broadly across Victoria. Commentators are yet to agree on what impact they will have on this State Election, but when funding is already secured from both major parties, why take the chance on an unknown.



Opposition Leader and local Member for Bulleen, Matthew Guy, visits St Gregory the Great Primary School, Doncaster, to announce the Liberal Nationals school capital funding commitment with CECV Executive Director, Jim Miles and school principal, Michelle Verna.



Premier Daniel Andrews, Member for Sunbury Josh Bull and CECV Executive Director Jim Miles, visiting Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School, Sunbury to announce a significant package of support for Catholic schools and kindergartens.

To learn more about CECV's election priorities, please visit cecv.catholic.edu.au/funding

For further information, contact the Director of Catholic Education in your diocese:



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