



MEDIA RELEASE

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Catholic school parents need assurances about their children's education

As parents get their children ready for the final term of school, NSW Catholic school families remain uncertain about next year's school fees with the State Government yet to accept new funding arrangements for non-government schools.

Chairperson of the Council of Catholic School Parents NSW/ACT (CCSP), Narelle Burke, said, "Last month, the Federal Government announced a new funding methodology that more accurately distributes public funding to non-government schools, making it fairer for parents and carers with children in low-fee schools.

"This change only affects non-government schools; it will not in any way disadvantage NSW government schools who will continue to be fully funded by taxpayers.

"Catholic and Independent schools are not fully funded by taxpayers; they must raise fees from their parents, and parents have always been, and continue to be, happy to pay their fair share.

"It's important that the NSW Government is supportive of the new funding arrangements announced by the Morrison Government last month. Without this support, Catholic school parents will continue to be uncertain about whether they will be able to afford a Catholic education for their children going forward.

"Non-government schools should receive the new, needs-based funding that is rightfully theirs. This additional funding is a direct consequence of the recommendation in the original 2011 Gonski review.

"The NSW Government is the majority funder of state schools, not Catholic and Independent schools, so it should not stand in the way of Federal Government money for the state's 944 non-government schools.

"Catholic schools and parents need certainty to plan for the 2019 school year. We urge the NSW Government to sign the agreement with the Commonwealth on behalf of the schools that educate one-third of the state's students," Ms Burke said.

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The Council of Catholic School Parents (CCSP) is the peak representative body for parents with children in Catholic schools in NSW.