



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Parent consultation key to fair funding following SES Review

Following the release of the final Report of the Review of the Socio-Economic Status (SES) Score Methodology, Catholic school parents are urging the government not to implement changes until parents have had an opportunity to review the Report and provide important feedback.

Council of Catholic School Parents (CCSP) is the peak body for parents with children in Catholic schools in NSW. CCSP Executive Director, Linda McNeil, says the Review of the SES Score Methodology is welcomed by Catholic school parents because the current system is flawed. However, it's essential that before moving forward with changes, the government gives the Catholic school sector adequate time to review the Report and understand how the recommendations will affect Catholic school parents and their right to choose a Catholic education for their children.

“The SES Review and how it is used to determine parents’ capacity to contribute has been a major cause of concern for Catholic school parents, with many disadvantaged by the existing methodology.

“For more than 200 years, Australian families have had the choice to send their children to Catholic schools. The key now is to ensure that the recommendations made in the final Report, and any decisions regarding changes to the SES methodology that are to follow, are fair and reflect the realistic capacity of parents to contribute to their children’s education through fees.

“Parents of children in Catholic schools have always paid fees and they have been willing to do that. But we need a funding model that is truly reflective of what families can afford to pay in school fees in 2018 and beyond.

“It’s important that no Catholic school is disadvantaged by any changes to the SES methodology, which is why adequate time is needed to review the Report and understand the full implications of the recommendations on our parents and our schools.

“Through this Review, the government has a real opportunity to get it right and develop a methodology that is fair and keeps Catholic education affordable for all families,” Ms McNeil said.

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