

Fast Facts about Catholic education in NSW



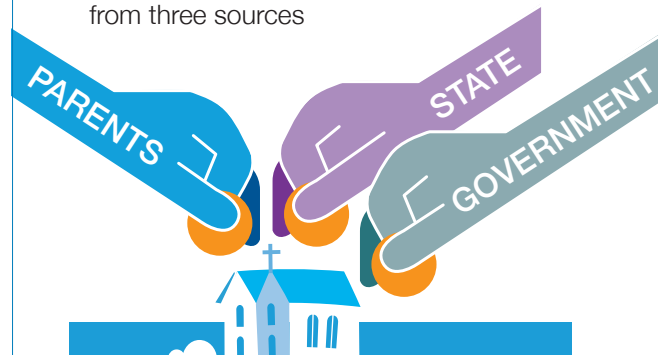
School funding is a complex issue and so it is easy for facts to be misrepresented in the media. Here are the facts about NSW Catholic schools and how they are funded.

Catholic schools

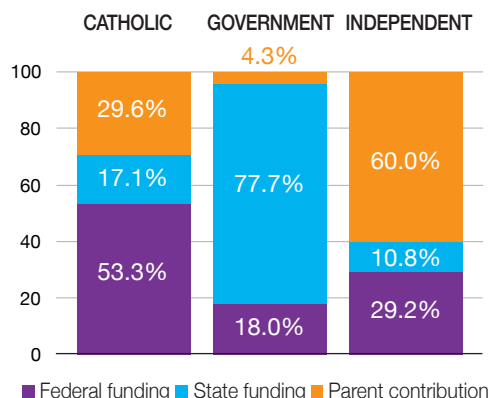
- Catholic schools have provided quality affordable education for Australian children since 1820
- Today there are 595 Catholic schools in NSW that educate approximately 255,000 students – that’s 1 in 5 school students
- Catholic education is one of the largest non-government employers in NSW with more than 23,000 staff including 17,500 teachers
- Catholic schools are committed to supporting families no matter their economic or social circumstances. Our schools are open to all students – Catholic, non-Catholic, poor, wealthy, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and those with a disability
- Enrolments of students with a disability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students have been the fastest growing segments in NSW Catholic schools for the past 20 years
- Catholic schools teach the curriculum set by the NSW Education Standards Authority and operate under a range of government legislation and regulations. Our schools are highly accountable to governments, parents, Church authorities and the Australian public

School funding

- Catholic schools receive funding from three sources



- In 2016, NSW Catholic school families contributed almost \$1.2 billion in fees to their children’s schools
- The primary funder of Catholic schools is the Federal Government. The primary funder of government schools is the NSW Government



- Catholic schools strive to keep fees affordable for families so that a Catholic education remains accessible to all. Without government funding, families would need to pay around \$13,000 per year, per student for a Catholic education

Capital funding

- In 2016, in addition to paying for annual school fees, Catholic school parents raised \$316.5 million in capital contributions – to build, expand or upgrade Catholic schools
- In NSW Catholic schools, it is expected that student numbers will increase by 10,000 over the next three years. This will require up to 11 new schools and the expansion of 41 existing schools. Government support is critical to ensuring we can meet this future demand

More information: