



MEDIA RELEASE

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Catholic school parents welcome capital funding pledge

The peak body for parents with children in Catholic schools, the Council of Catholic School Parents (CCSP) has welcomed today's commitment from the NSW Liberal-National coalition to triple NSW Government capital grants to non-government schools, if it is re-elected.

CCSP Executive Director, Peter Grace, said this commitment would go a long way towards easing some of the current financial stress on Catholic school parents to raise money over and above their school fees to build, upgrade and expand Catholic schools.

"Until now, Catholic school parents in NSW have been wearing much of the financial burden when it comes to capital works in our schools. In fact, Catholic school parents fund some 90% of capital projects through levies and fundraising, and these contributions are in addition to their school fees.

"As an example, it cost more than \$33 million to support the development of a new Catholic school in Lake Munmorah, of which parent contributions were \$26.8 million - that's an extraordinary ask of our families.

"Catholic schools have an important role to play in our education system and we must ensure our schools remain accessible to all who choose them, from families in Botany to those in Broken Hill.

"This is why ongoing financial support from governments is so critical. The NSW Coalition's pledge to increase capital contributions to \$500 million over four years for non-government schools is welcome news for Catholic school families," Mr Grace said.

Of the funds promised, Catholic schools would expect to receive some \$75 million per year, which will be prioritised to schools in need of new or upgraded learning facilities and schools in fast growing areas, to help Catholic education meet its share of future student growth in NSW.

"Our schools educate more than 250,000 students and we are currently planning for growth of almost 10,000 additional students over the next three years, which will require up to 11 new schools and the expansion of 41 existing schools.

"I congratulate Catholic Schools NSW for working to achieve this pledge of increased funding from the Coalition, and we look forward to the Labor Opposition meeting or bettering this commitment," Mr Grace 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.