In 2014, NSW’s 584 Catholic schools educated 21% of NSW students but received only 2% of NSW Government capital funding for schools.

The NSW Government provides $7.6 million in capital grants to Catholic schools – or $30 per student.

In 2012, the NSW Government capped its capital funding to non-government schools, but enrolments have continued to grow by 10,000 students – the equivalent of 12 new secondary schools or 400 new classrooms.

The $7.6 million provided by the NSW Government in 2014 was only enough to part-fund seven of the 39 Catholic school building projects which sought funding that year.

NSW Catholic schools educate almost 254,000 students and will need to accommodate a further 58,000 students by 2031 – the equivalent of more than 2300 additional classrooms.

Catholic school parents fund the bulk of capital works projects in their children’s schools through school building levies and the repayment of loans. But the rising cost of land, construction and technology mean that parents cannot shoulder this burden to the same extent indefinitely.