For 200 years, Catholic schools have educated children in Australia. Today, Catholic schools enrol more than 760,000 students in 1,730 schools across Australia.

It is important to understand the facts on funding for Catholic schools, which educate one in five Australian students across the country.

Catholic schools have a strong social justice mission to form well-rounded individuals who make a positive contribution to their local communities.

A strong Catholic education system contributes to a strong Australian community. All governments provide important funding for Catholic schools along with families who contribute to the costs of Catholic education through fees and fundraising.

According to the Australian Government’s My School website, Catholic students receive, on average, 17 per cent less government funding than students in government schools.

Even when parent fees are taken into consideration, Catholic schools operate with roughly the same level of recurrent funding as government schools.

With similar resources per student, the Australian Catholic school system is among the best in the world, compared to Shanghai, Finland and Singapore on international tests in 2009, for student performance across all socioeconomic backgrounds.

Catholic schools save the taxpayer $1.6 billion each year in recurrent funding and take the pressure off government schools.

Catholic school parents also provide the majority of funding for capital works to build schools the government would otherwise have to fund – creating additional savings for governments and taxpayers.