State Election Alert 6  24 November 2010

The hard work of many people in Catholic schools and the wider Catholic education community has now secured a bi-partisan commitment to fair funding for Catholic education.

Regardless of who wins the election on 27 November, Catholic schools will receive state funding at 25% of the cost of educating a student in a government school.

**Thanks to political leaders**

Both the Labor Party and the Liberal Nationals Coalition have committed to 25% state funding for Catholic schools. This is a good opportunity for principals to write to our political leaders to thank them for their support of Catholic education and let them know what the additional funding will mean for your school.

The respective addresses are:

<table>
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<th>The Hon John Brumby MP</th>
<th>Mr Ted Baillieu MP</th>
<th>Mr Peter Ryan MP</th>
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<td>Premier of Victoria</td>
<td>Leader of the Liberal Party</td>
<td>Leader of the Nationals</td>
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<td>1 Treasury Place</td>
<td>Parliament House</td>
<td>Parliament House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melbourne 3000</td>
<td>East Melbourne 3002</td>
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**Greens Party Education Policy**

On your behalf I wrote to the Greens Party in August asking that they provide details of their education policy in relation to Catholic schools. With only a few days remaining until the state election the Greens have not responded.

Given that they have not provided any details on Catholic school funding we have examined the Greens Party education policy published on their website. It is silent on state funding for Catholic schools. We can only assume that the Victorian Greens Party policy is the same as the Greens policy at the recent federal election. This would cut state funding to Catholic schools in Victoria by more than $60 million per year.

The Greens Party is also committed to work towards: ‘Holding all educational institutions and programs in receipt of any public funding to high levels of audit and accountability, financial transparency and non-discriminatory staff recruitment and enrolment policies’. It is unclear whether the Greens Party policy is to maintain existing arrangements or impose further compliance requirements on Catholic schools.

I am disappointed that the Greens Party has not taken the opportunity to explain their education policy in relation to Catholic schools and particularly their position on state funding at 25% of government school costs.
Brochure on new funding deal
You should now have received a brochure on the historic funding deal for Catholic schools. If for any reason this is not the case or you have any further questions in relation to this or other matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Peter Ryan
DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION
DIOCESE OF SALE

Suggested Newsletter Insert
Catholic schools and the State Election
Catholic education has been active during the state election on the issue of fair funding for Catholic schools. Both the Labor Party and the Liberal Nationals Coalition have now committed to fund Catholic schools at 25% of the cost of educating a student in a government school.

Irrespective of whether the Labor Party or the Liberal Nationals Coalition is elected to government on 27 November Catholic education will receive fair funding.

The Greens Party currently has three members in the upper house and there have been suggestions that they could be competitive in other upper house regions and a number of lower house seats in the inner-suburbs of Melbourne. On your behalf we contacted the Greens Party in August asking for their education policies and particularly how they might affect Catholic schools. We are yet to receive any response. The published Greens Party education policy is silent on Catholic school funding. We can only assume that the Victorian Greens Party policy is the same as the Greens policy at the recent federal election. This would cut funding to Catholic schools in Victoria by more than $60 million per year. We are concerned that without a commitment to funding for Catholic schools the Greens Party policy would put additional financial pressure on Catholic schools.

The Democratic Labor Party (DLP) currently has a member in the Victorian Upper House and commentary suggests he may be re-elected. The DLP may also be competitive in a number of other regions for the Upper House. In general the DLP education policy is supportive of parental choice in education and providing government funding to all schools on similar terms. The policy is therefore supportive of Catholic education.