State Election Alert 5

16 November 2010

As you will surely now be aware that the Brumby Labor Government, if re-elected, will provide state funding to Catholic schools at 25% of the cost of education in a Victorian government school.

The commitment by the Liberal Nationals Coalition to 25% funding, first made in 2008, has been important in securing this bi-partisan commitment to fair funding for Catholic schools.

Regardless of who wins the State election on Saturday 27 November, Catholic education has secured a bi-partisan commitment to fair funding for Catholic schools.

Thanks to political leaders
It is always important to let our political leaders know when they have responded positively to our requests on an issue that is important to Catholic education.

You may wish to write to Premier Brumby thanking him for his government’s commitment to fair funding for Catholic education and let him know what the funding means for your school community.

The address for the Premier is: The Hon John Brumby MP
Premier of Victoria
1 Treasury Place
Melbourne VIC 3000

When the Liberal Nationals Coalition recommits to fair funding for Catholic schools at 25%, which we hope will occur in the near future, I encourage you to write and thank Ted Baillieu and Peter Ryan.

Their addresses are: Mr Ted Baillieu MP Mr Peter Ryan MP
Leader of the Liberal Party Leader of the Nationals
Parliament House Parliament House
East Melbourne VIC 3002 East Melbourne VIC 3002

Democratic Labor Party (DLP) Education Policy
We have recently received information from the DLP on their education policy. While the policy does not explicitly deal with funding for Catholic schools at 25% of the cost of education in a government school, it is beneficial to Catholic education. The policy is unambiguous in its support for equal government funding to schools irrespective of who owns the school and therefore would likely result in additional government funding to Catholic schools if implemented.

You can find a copy of the DLP policy attached.

Greens Party Policy
We have asked the Greens Party for details on their policy for Catholic education funding but have not yet received any response.
**Additional Information**

The CECV has produced a brochure for distribution to parents and teachers which explains the funding announcement by the government and the opposition and describes some of the history involved.

The brochure is due to be delivered to schools by the end of this week.

Talking points on page 3 of this alert help to explain the bipartisan funding commitment.

This alert along with the other attachments can be found on the CEVN website. As always, if 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

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**Suggested Newsletter Insert**

**Catholic schools and the State Election**

Catholic education has achieved bi-partisan support for fair funding for Catholic schools at 25% of the cost of education in a government school. Regardless of who wins the election on 27 November, Catholic education will receive increased state government funding that recognises the contribution of Catholic schools across Victoria.

You may familiarise yourself with other issues in relation to education policies. You can find further details on the website of each party:

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<td>Nationals</td>
<td><a href="http://www.vicnats.com">www.vicnats.com</a></td>
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<td>DLP</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dlp.org.au">www.dlp.org.au</a></td>
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<td>Family First</td>
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Historic agreement permanently links Catholic school funding to 25% of state school costs

These talking points may be useful to assist you in explaining this important announcement to your community.

• The Victorian Labor Government has recently (Tuesday 9 November) committed to provide state funding to Catholic schools at 25% of education costs in Victorian government schools.

• This announcement follows a commitment from the Liberal-Nationals Coalition, first announced in 2008, to increase funding to Catholic schools to 25% of state school costs.

• This bipartisan commitment to fair funding for Catholic schools is a truly historic achievement. It is ongoing and will mean Catholic school funding should never again be a political issue in a state election.

• Parish Priests, members of religious congregations, Principals, teachers and parents have all been instrumental in achieving this historic position for Catholic education.

• This commitment from both the Labor Government and the Liberal-Nationals Coalition recognises the significant contribution Catholic schools have made to Victoria over many years.

• In November 2009 a new funding agreement was signed with the state government. This agreement was estimated to lift funding from nearly 18% to 22% of the cost of education in a government school by 2013.

• This commitment by future Labor or Liberal-National governments will increase funding for Catholic schools to 25% by the end of 2011.

• Thanks to the commitment by both parties, Catholic schools in Victoria will now be permanently funded at a rate linked to 25% of the cost of education in a Victorian government school.

• This means that indexation on state funding will be permanently improved. For example, this year state funding was indexed by 2% compared to AGSRC indexation which has typically been between 4 – 6%.

• Only four years ago, in 2006, funding from the state government was less than 15% of the total income available to Catholic schools in Victoria.

• The new agreement represents in excess of $32 million in 2012 in additional funding for 190,000 students in Catholic schools across Victoria.

• It is estimated that by 2012 the new funding arrangement will on average deliver an additional $170 to Catholic education for every child in a Catholic school in Victoria.

• This is on top of an estimated $257 more per student in 2012 compared to state funding levels before the new agreement in 2009.

• The new funding arrangement means that every time a new recurrent initiative is announced for Victorian government schools funding for Catholic schools will increase.

• State funding for non-government schools will continue to be distributed according to need.