9 August, 2010

Catholic primary schools get ‘A+’ on BER

The Director of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Sale, Peter Ryan, congratulated Catholic primary school communities on the results they have achieved through the Building the Education Revolution (BER).

“The great teaching and learning facilities that have been added to Catholic primary schools throughout Victoria are a demonstration of the professionalism and commitment of Catholic primary school principals and the support of parents and parish priests,” Mr Ryan said.

“Parents at Catholic schools can see for themselves the results of this program. This has been a great collaboration between the Catholic Education Office and schools.”

Mr Ryan’s comments follow the release of the Interim Report of the Building the Education Revolution Implementation Taskforce which confirmed the value for money and quality facilities delivered in Catholic schools.

The Interim Report confirmed that Victorian Catholic schools are consistently amongst the lowest cost for classrooms, multi-purpose halls and libraries. All BER projects in Victorian Catholic schools have started and timelines for the program are being met.

“This report shows how Catholic schools will continue to make the best use of the government funding they receive by drawing on the quality of their leaders, teachers and staff,” said Mr Ryan.

“Unfortunately, Catholic education faces a 37% government funding gap compared to government schools which is bridged, in part, by fees from parents.”

The report found that

“On the question of differences in quality, the architects did not observe any significant systemic differences between government and Catholic schools in either NSW or Victoria in the quality of building fabric, services and furniture, fixtures and equipment.”

Further information from Peter Ryan, Catholic Education Office, Warragul, on

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