Media Statement

Bishop Greg O’Kelly SJ, Chairman, Bishops Commission for Catholic Education

A funding floor for Catholic Schools for 2013

Last April the then Education Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, said that no school would lose a dollar of Commonwealth funding following the Review of Funding for Schooling she was announcing. “This was a welcome promise,” said Bishop Greg O’Kelly, Chairman of the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education, “but it left Catholic schools unsure about the value of future Commonwealth grants – would they continue to keep pace with inflation and increasing costs such as salaries and basic operating expenses.”

Today Prime Minister Gillard undertook to maintain current school funding indexation measures until the end of 2013. She also said that there would continue to be a “transparent and robust” indexation system for all schools from 2014.

“We appreciate that the Prime Minister has been able to provide Catholic schools with an interim funding floor for 2013. This certainly helps schools with their planning. Catholic schools and systems look forward to stable and secure funding arrangements from the Commonwealth to enable us to meet our obligations under the National Declaration of Educational Goals for Young Australians. We will work hard to ensure that the indexation system from 2014 is fair and reasonable, as well as transparent and robust, for Catholic schools, and indeed for all schools.”

“The National Catholic Education Commission is committed to working with the expert Funding Review Panel in 2010 and 2011 to advise on all aspects of school funding, including the question of proper indexation of grants of schools,” said Bishop O’Kelly.

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Further information
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