

How are Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton Schools funded?

Why do Catholic School parents pay school fees?

Catholic schools are open to all who seek and support the values espoused by the school. The provision of Catholic schooling is made possible through parental payment of school fees and levies combined with funding support provided by Federal and State governments. The funding support recognises the rights of parents to exercise choice in their education providers. The continuing provision of quality Catholic Education for all students in the Diocese requires that all enrolling parents/caregivers pay school fees and levies as and when they fall due.

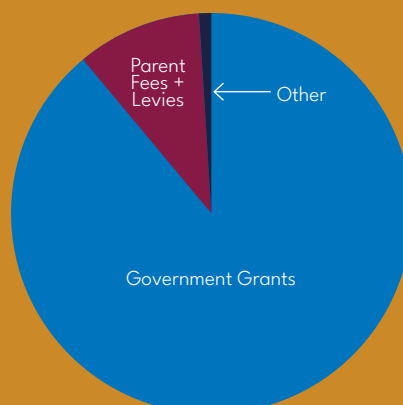
SES model and CEDR schools (our past 22 years)



Low Parent Fees + Levies Contributions

The SES model has provided sufficient school funding for the past 22 years through State and Federal Government funding, with low parent fees and levies contributions (see graph).

- Primary school parent fees and levies: up to \$5.70/day
- Secondary school parent fees and levies: up to \$14/day



Family Discounts

CEDR schools support families via generous family discounts.



Fee Concessions

CEDR schools support families experiencing financial hardship through various concession arrangements.



Cost Effective

CEDR schools are cost effective operations.

History of Catholic School Funding

pre
1964

Catholic Schools funded by parent and parishioner donations.

1964

Act of Parliament introduced Federal Government funding for Non-Government schools in Australia.

1970

Federal Government introduced recurrent funding for Non-Government schools in Australia. Recurrent funding supports the ongoing operating expenses of all schools.

- The Federal Government has reviewed and refined the **recurrent** funding model a number of times.
- Improved data capability now allows the Federal Government to allocate recurrent funding to where it is needed most - this is known as **“needs-based”** funding.

2001

Federal Government introduced the **Socio-Economic Status (SES) funding model** - a “needs-based” model linking student addresses to Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census Collections Districts to give an SES score.

- Schools were ranked relative to each other based on the SES of their community.
- **CEDR was funded via the SES model until 2022.**

What is the **NEW** Federal Government Funding model for Non-Government schools?

Base Funding

Primary Student = \$13,557
Secondary Student = \$17,036 (2024)

Capacity to Contribute

% of base funding that Non-Government schools must raise privately, ranging from 10% to 80%, depending on the median income of parents at the school.



Loadings

Additional funding for six types of students and schools in priority cohorts. Student disadvantage: Indigeneity, Disability, Socio-Educational, Low-English Proficiency. School disadvantage: Size and Location.

School Resource Standard (SRS)

Per student funding is calculated on the unique characteristics of each school, its parents and its students.

Source: National Catholic Education Commission 2023

- The **School Resource Standard (SRS) funding model** is the Federal Government Needs-Based Funding Model, based on recommendations from the *Gonski Review of Funding for Schooling*.
- The SRS is the Federal Government's assessment of how much funding schools require to meet student educational needs.
 - SRS determines funding for Government and Non-Government schools and comprises both Base Funding and Loadings.
 - Base Funding paid to Non-Government schools is reduced by the Federal Government's assessment of Parent Capacity to Contribute.
- Schools that are currently funded above the target Federal Government share of SRS will transition to it by 2029 (this applies to most CEDR schools).
- Unlike many Non-Government schools, CEDR schools deliver education to students **within the SRS**.