

## **ACARA Publication of School Resourcing Information**

# **KEY MESSAGES**

- The Catholic sector welcomes the transparency around school resourcing that the publication of financial information on the *My School 2.0* website now provides.
- The publication of this information will help clarify the facts about school resourcing. It will assist communities to understand their local school's situation as well as contribute to a more informed debate around how all schools should be funded into the future.
- Even when taking parent and community contributions into account, Catholic schools operate, on average, at about 80% of the recurrent resourcing levels of government schools.
- According to the latest figures available from the *National Report on Schooling 2008*, the Catholic school sector in Queensland on average received \$5,666 per student from the Australian Government, \$2,248 from the State Government, and \$2,924 from parent and community contributions. This was a total of \$10,838 per student. In 2008/09 state schools nationally received on average \$12,639 per student in government funding (*Productivity Commission Report*). Therefore, Catholic schools receive only about 58% of the total government funding received by state schools.
- I would urge caution in making direct comparisons between schools based on the information. School resourcing is complex and it is important that the reasons why levels of resourcing vary between schools and schooling sectors are well understood.
  - Every school is unique in its circumstances and the families it serves and there is a range of factors affecting the level of government grants and other income each school receives.
  - These factors include the size of a school, the programs it offers, a rural or remote location, numbers of students with special needs, among others.
- Fees and levies for Catholic schools are set taking into account the significant costs of operating the school that cannot be met by government grants.
  - The Catholic sector tries to strike a balance in setting fees which allows schools to remain viable, while providing a quality of education comparable with similar schools, which in the case of State schools, are almost fully funded by government.
  - Our philosophy in Catholic education is to strive to make our schools accessible to all families who seek their values.

- It is our hope that the review of Australian Government funding currently underway will help close the gap between the amount of government funding received by Catholic schools and that received by government schools.
  - All Australian children deserve an equitable share of government support to access the type of education their parents want for them, regardless of whether they attend a Catholic, State or Independent school.
  - More than 135,000 or about 18% of all Queensland students, including almost 60% of students in non-government schools, are educated in 288 Catholic schools that employ more than 16,000 teachers and staff across Queensland.
- The Queensland Catholic Education Commission has prepared some detailed information materials to help explain the school income publication process and these can be found at [www.qcec.qld.catholic.edu.au](http://www.qcec.qld.catholic.edu.au) under the *Finance and Compliance* link.