



ST JUDE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers

Re: School funding cuts for Catholic schools

As you may be aware the Australian government last week announced a new funding proposal that will cut funding to Catholic schools in the ACT over the next ten years.

A cut of this magnitude will have a significant impact on the Catholic system and we will be faced with decisions to cover any shortfall. Catholic education will do everything it can to hold fees as low as possible.

This week I received a letter from Education Minister Simon Birmingham that confirms St Jude's funding will be cut over the next ten years by \$539,000.

I want to stress that Catholic Education is currently reviewing the figures to confirm their accuracy. We have been advised that while we know funding will be cut we should treat the figures with caution until they can be confirmed.

The school funding debate is complicated and surrounded by misinformation. To support you Catholic Education has produced some simple key points. I encourage you to:

- Take this information and share it with your friends.
- Contact your political leaders and ask why funding for your child is being cut while other students are receiving increases. Ask how your school is expected to cover the gap.
- Explain what you value could be put at risk in the school as a result of these cuts.

I appreciate this is an unusual request but it is necessary in the circumstances. In conjunction with the Director of Catholic Education we will be doing everything possible to help the Australian government understand the consequences of these changes.

Regards

Peter Galvin

11/5/2017