

# Catholic Education benefits all Australians

Catholic schools are Australia's largest non-government education provider, delivering choice, affordability, and value that benefits all Australians.



## Educating 1 in 5 Australian Students

- **820,000** students across **1,751** schools
- **42%** of students from non-Catholic backgrounds
- **42%** of our students come from low socio-educational backgrounds
- **23%** of students supported with disability
- **161%** growth in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student enrolment over 10 years

## EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES, ENRICHING AUSTRALIA

### Economic and Social Contribution

- Employing more than **112,000** Australians
- Contributing more than **\$17 billion** annually to Australia's economy
- Families contributing over **\$6 billion** annually in fees and capital levies that reduce the burden on government

### Support for Education and Communities

- School communities have built educational infrastructure worth an estimated **\$100 billion** for the nation
- Serving families in regional Australia with **40%** of Catholic schools located in regional, rural, and remote areas
- Supporting disadvantaged families with significant fee concessions

## TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION

- Research shows those who attend Catholic schools are more likely, on average, to see lifelong benefits in **employment, health and life satisfaction**
- In addition, Catholic school attendees are more likely to work in an industry or sector that directly benefits the public and are more likely to **donate to charity**

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# Our Priorities

## SECURING THE FUTURE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

### 1. Ensure Affordability and Choice

Catholic schools save taxpayers billions of dollars and ease pressure on government-run schools. To remain sustainable, we need the government to provide continued policy stability and funding certainty.

**We are calling on our political leaders to:**

- ✓ Guarantee funding certainty with no adverse changes
- ✓ Ease cost of living pressures by reviewing the funding model to ensure affordable and fair parental contributions
- ✓ Support Catholic schools in employing staff who uphold their ethos
- ✓ Ensure equal access to programs such as national teacher training initiatives.

## SUPPORT CATHOLIC EDUCATION: CHOICE, EQUITY AND THE FUTURE

### 2. Address hardship, wellbeing and disadvantage

Every student deserves access to quality education and the right support, no matter their background.

**We are calling on our political leaders to:**

- ✓ Expand mental health and wellbeing programs in schools
- ✓ Increase support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, including Indigenous Boarding and Closing the Gap initiatives
- ✓ Improve funding models for students with disability, rural and remote schools, and disadvantaged communities.

### 3. Build and Innovate for the Future

As demand for non-government schooling and early childhood education grows, investment must keep pace.

**We are calling on our political leaders to:**

- ✓ Ensure fair funding for early childhood and vocational education including new early childhood centres on Catholic school sites
- ✓ Increase infrastructure funding through the Capital Grants Program
- ✓ Support Catholic schools in leading national education reforms.