



PENNY ALLMAN-PAYNE
GREENS SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND

8 April 2025

Ms Jacinta Collins
Executive Director
National Catholic Education Commission

Dear Ms Collins,

Thank you for your letter of 31 March 2025 regarding the National Catholic Education Commission's requests ahead of the 2025 Federal Election.

I am responding on behalf of the Australian Greens in my capacity as spokesperson for Primary & Secondary Education.

As I stated in my letter to you on 26 February 2025, the Greens are taking a suite of policies to this election designed to ensure that every child in Australia has access to a free, fully-funded world-class education.

As you have stated, a fully-funded and resourced public system is to the benefit of all Australians. For this reason, our policy focus is on ensuring that public schools are fully funded, have the infrastructure that kids deserve, and are completely fee-free.

The Greens are supportive of the current, longstanding government policy settings, supported by both the Labor Government and Coalition, to transition all private schools to 100% of the Schooling Resource Standard by 2029. For the private schools that are currently funded above that 100% level, this means transitioning down to 100%. This is Labor and Coalition policy, and is supported by the Greens and across the parliament.

The Greens policy funds every school in Australia to 100% of the Schooling Resource Standard, regardless of whether they are public or private.

The Greens believe that a well-resourced public system is the cornerstone of universal education and our egalitarian society. Our goal is to ensure that all children can have an education that sets

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Authorised by Senator Penny Allman-Payne, Australian Greens, Canberra, ACT.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. Sovereignty was never ceded.



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them up for the future - and for this to be possible, it's vital that every school gets the funding it needs.

The Greens will always back teachers and staff. We can't value teachers and school staff highly enough. We will ensure teachers and staff are properly compensated and have the necessary support and training, so teachers don't get burned out.

The Greens' plan for schools includes:

- Investing an additional \$38 billion in public schools over the next decade. That means Commonwealth funding will increase to 25% of the Schooling Resource Standard, ensuring all public schools receive 100% of the SRS funding they need to provide a quality education by July 2026.
- Delivering an additional \$2.4 billion to schools on top of their full funding to abolish out-of-pocket costs for public schools, including ending voluntary fees for students' families, so that public schools are completely free. That means no out of pocket costs for parents or teachers and activities like art, sport and music are accessible by everyone.
- Providing annual 'back to school' payments of \$800 for every child to the parents of public school kids to cover additional out-of-pocket costs like computers, uniforms, sporting equipment, instruments and stationery.
- Delivering upgrades to public school infrastructure to ensure it meets the needs of teachers and students. We will establish a new capital grants fund for public school infrastructure, to disperse \$1.25 billion in its first year and \$350 million each year after.
- We will also ensure that classrooms are safe for students and teachers by properly ventilating them. We've advocated for national standards, so all schools have mechanical ventilation in classrooms. We will seek to provide \$388m for the installation of HEPA filters and CO2 monitors so everyone can breathe a little easier.

Our plan is fully costed by the independent Parliamentary Budget Office, and we'll pay for it by collecting more tax from billionaires and big corporations.

The Greens believe that a well-resourced public system is the cornerstone of universal education and our egalitarian society. Our goal is to ensure that all children can have an education that sets them up for the future - and for this to be possible, it's vital that every school gets the funding it needs. I have also flagged my strong support, in principle, for ensuring that students receive the

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support they need over and above the SRS, including loadings, as necessary - particularly for students with disabilities, and those in regional and remote areas.

I thank you for your engagement on this matter.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Penny'.

Senator Penny Allman-Payne

Australian Greens spokesperson for Primary & Secondary Education

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