



How will the outcome of the State election impact Catholic education?

As Victorians you will soon be asked to vote in the State election on Saturday 26th November.

There are many promises made in the lead up to State elections by the various parties and independent candidates. You may be aware of the announcements from major parties about pledges for education. Most of these will apply only to government schools so it's important to understand what is actually being pledged and how it may impact Catholic education in Victoria.

In the lead-up to the Victorian state election in November, the Catholic Education Commission has been seeking several commitments from both sides of politics to continue to support Catholic education in Victoria. These commitments will help support the plan to improve Catholic schools and meet the demand for new schools, assist teachers and give your children the high-quality education they deserve.

Catholic school students represent one in five Victorian school students and are an essential part of 'The Education State'. Victorian government funding should reflect this. Enrolling children in Catholic schools helps the sustainability of the whole Victorian education system.

To support the campaign to ensure ongoing funding of Catholic schools visit: <https://faircatholicfunding.com/>

Why it's important to be informed:

We want you to be well informed when it comes to government support for Catholic education in Victoria, especially when it comes to funding. It's estimated that demand for Catholic education is set to grow over the next five years, with many more places needed by 2025. Catholic school families already provide 70–75 cents of every dollar invested on capital projects in Catholic schools. We cannot be expected to afford to pay more as well as contribute as taxpayers to funding of government schools.

CSPV Parent Connect provides parents of children in Catholic schools support to engage in your children's curriculum learning, wellbeing, child safety and Catholic community.



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What is each party promising and how will it impact Catholic education?

The Victorian Labor Party have pledged:

\$112.5 million per year over four years to build and upgrade low fee Catholic and independent schools across the state, with Catholic schools receiving at least 70% of this investment, in line with their share of students.

- 19 Catholic and 13 independent schools will *share in funding* for three new schools in growth areas
- invest \$250 million to build and upgrade around 60 kinders at Catholic and independent schools.
- Extend student tutoring program into 2023
- Expand the Smile Squad free dental program to low-fee independent and Catholic schools from 2026.
- Streamlined \$73.4 million Career Start Pilot for new teachers
- Invest up to \$850 million to fund works at least 89 government only primary and secondary schools.
- Over the past 8 years Labor have invested more than \$12.8 billion to improve classrooms, upgrade facilities and build new government schools.

Impact on Catholic education

- \$112.5 million per year is less than the \$150-200 million per year capital funding needed to enable Catholic schools to meet student needs for a 21st century education and for new families in growth areas to access a Catholic education for their children. Catholic school students also miss out on these tax payer funded programs:
- Headstart apprenticeships
- Agriculture education fund
- \$641K Active Schools grants
- \$1.6 billion support for students with disabilities support in schools
- Mental health support in schools
- Regional School Bus Program
- Equitable access to teacher recruitment incentives
- \$19 million to attract and retain teachers in government schools

The Victorian Liberal/National Coalition have pledged:

• \$175 million per year over four years for Non-government schools for capital improvements to existing Catholic schools and the construction of new Catholic schools in growth areas.

- A \$220 million rollout of phonics across early schooling and additional school nurses and allied health staff
- Over \$200 million to develop and implement a simplified curriculum to simplify the prep to year 10 curriculum, streamline to ensure a stronger focus on maths, science and literacy skills.
- Develop high quality common lesson plans and teacher resources
- Provide schools and teachers with the flexibility to teach students areas of interest.
- Ensure that students receive consistent access to physical education, the Arts and LOTE.
- Deliver Victoria's first [Face-to-Face Learning Guarantee](#)
- Keep schools open and re-focus learning on the fundamentals
- Change to definition of a 'mental health practitioner' under the Mental Health Act to enable a Mental Health Practitioner, including qualified 'counsellors' in every Victorian primary and secondary school.
- Expand and upgrade government schools.

Impact on Catholic education

- \$175 million per year reflects the \$150-200 million per year capital funding needed to enable Catholic schools to meet student needs for a 21st century education and for new families in growth areas to access a Catholic education for their children.
- Phonics is already taught in Catholic schools but teachers also adopt an integrated approach to teaching reading to enable different approaches to allow for diversity of learning needs
- Changes in the curriculum impact teachers and students as they are already implementing a revised curriculum
- Common lesson plans mean less flexible teaching and learning opportunities.
- Qualified mental health practitioners and counsellors in schools.

The Victorian Greens have pledged:

- Strong support for secular government fully free education increasing Government funding for government schools to 75% of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) **\$1.46 billion total.**
- No pledges relating to providing Catholic schools with any support.
- Supporting decision making in education to be open to input from teachers, academics, parents and students through their representative bodies such as unions, councils and professional associations.

Impact on Catholic education

- The Greens don't support Catholic education as they only advocate for free government secular education in Victoria.

Space to learn, grow and flourish:



Our plan to deliver for Catholic students, teachers and families.

With cost of living at an all time high and student numbers continuing to increase, Catholic families shouldn't have to foot the whole bill for a growing and evolving education sector.

To keep pace with demand and continue to deliver in classrooms, we need:



\$150-200 million per year over four years in capital funding to bring our Catholic schools into the 21st century and build new schools in growing communities.



\$20 million per year in capital funding for our Catholic kindergartens, allowing parents to choose a quality education that fits with their values.



\$3 million per year in Catholic kindergarten funding to put us on a level playing field with private providers.



Fair access to government dental care programs, ensuring Catholic students can access free healthcare.



Teacher recruitment programs extended to the Catholic sector providing all schools with equal access to teaching resources.



Easier transport for our regional and rural students with equal consideration when planning school bus routes and mandatory seatbelts outside town limits.

Know the Facts: Catholic schools support all students



For every \$1 invested into a Victorian Catholic school, up to 75 cents are contributed by parents and families.



Every student who attends a Catholic school saves Victorian taxpayers \$90,000 over the lifetime of their schooling career.



Catholic kindergartens receive up to eight times less government funding per student.



One in four students come from a low-income family.

The government has already promised \$3.7 billion for the public school system. Our plan will ensure families don't have to foot the bill and Catholic students don't miss out.

Together, we can continue to deliver for Catholic schools and welcome many more students by 2025. To learn more, visit www.faircatholicfunding.com and sign up to show your support.