



ST PIUS X COLLEGE

CHATSWOOD

From the Principal
Mr John Couani

9 May 2017

Dear members of the St Pius X College, Chatswood community

PROPOSED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR ST PIUS X COLLEGE CHATSWOOD

As you are no doubt aware, the Federal Government has announced a 10-year projection of school funding across the nation. I write to you today to inform you of what we currently know at St Pius X College, Chatswood.

As a matter of principle, St Pius X College supports needs-based funding. Similarly we acknowledge that affordability and accessibility of Catholic schooling is crucial.

At St Pius X College Chatswood, through the legislated funding agreement of the Gillard government, we have benefitted from "funding maintained" levels of funding which are higher than the level based on the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS). The SRS is largely based on the socio-economic status of the parents of our school and district.

The College has been informed that our 2017 Commonwealth funding of \$6,969 per student will reduce in 2018 to \$6,834 per student. This represents a reduction of 1.9% in nominal terms. This equates to a decrease of \$135 per student for 2018. In total, this is a reduction of \$154,600 for 2018. Over the next 10 years our per student funding will continue to reduce in order to bring us back to our SRS which would equate to \$4,557 per student in 2027 based on today's figures.

Attached with this letter, is a copy of the advice received from the Minister for Education and Training, Senator Simon Birmingham which outlines the information above. The Federal Government has also launched a School Funding Estimator which can be accessed through:

<https://www.education.gov.au/quality-schools>

The College Board has been aware of the potential for changes to funding and will continue to carefully plan to ensure that the College is able to maintain its existing high standards of Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition.

The College will responsibly and prudently manage any funding changes. The College will need to increase its fees over time, but I emphasise that this will be done in careful consideration of the affordability and accessibility for our parents and through the direction of the College Board, the College Finance and Risk Committee and Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA). The College will continue to provide Financial Assistance to families in need through the College Equity Scholarship Program and fee concessions based on financial need.

In closing, I will keep our community informed as the Federal Government continues to communicate funding levels for our school and I aim to include further regular updates in Woodchatta. I thank each family for their commitment to providing a Catholic education for their children, and parents are always welcome to contact me directly to discuss their personal circumstances.

Yours sincerely

John Couani
Principal

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