



15 November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As you are aware, over the past few months, the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) has been advocating to the major Victorian political parties for a \$150–200 million per annum commitment towards significant capital infrastructure for our schools, among a range of other important initiatives.

Thanks to your ongoing support, we are pleased to advise that we have secured a commitment from the major parties for Catholic education.

Last month, the Andrews Labor Government committed \$717 million for non-government schools and kindergartens if re-elected. This announcement includes \$450 million towards school capital infrastructure that will see an initial five new Catholic schools built in growing suburbs across Melbourne's north and west, and expanded capacity at 13 others.

For our youngest students, there is \$250 million in funding to build and upgrade kindergartens at Catholic schools. This will mean children who begin their school life at a Catholic kindergarten can seamlessly transition to a Catholic primary school, making life easier for many families.

A further \$17 million will also see the expansion of the Smile Squad dental program to Catholic schools. This is a free dental check-up for all students, which we know will lead to better dental outcomes for our students and help alleviate cost-of-living pressures on Catholic families.

It is pleasing to see the major political parties in Victoria recognise the value of Catholic education, with the Liberal–National Coalition also committing \$700 million in recent weeks towards capital infrastructure for non-government schools if elected.

The Victorian Liberals and Nationals have also announced that they will legislate to give faith-based schools the protection to hire staff who share their values and beliefs if they win government in November. Catholic education has always sought the religious right to employ staff who support the ethos of our schools.

We look forward to unpacking the details of these commitments in the coming weeks and what they look like for the growing number of students in Catholic education, who all deserve to learn in facilities that are modern, fit for purpose and in line with community expectations.

If you are yet to visit our website www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/funding, please do so to view the full list of our asks and both major parties' commitments to date. We encourage you to continue to promote these priorities among your family and friends.

Thank you for your continued support.

On behalf of

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