



Dear parents and carers

For the second time this week, I am writing to you with good news on school funding.

The Liberal Nationals leader Matthew Guy and his education spokesman, Tim Smith, have pledged to match the Victorian Government's \$400 million commitment for the upgrading and building of new Catholic and non-government schools over the four years, if elected on 24 November.

The Liberal Nationals have also committed to planning reforms they say will offer more streamlined procedures and enable Catholic and other non-government schools to be more responsive to community demands by transferring planning responsibility for applications relating to non-government schools from councils directly to the Minister for Planning.

Importantly, Mr Guy has said 'giving parents and children choice in education is a core value of the Liberal Nationals', adding 'a critically important part of that choice is for parents to have the option of low-fee independent and Catholic schools'.

Shadow Minister for Education, Tim Smith, acknowledged that Victoria has the highest rate in the country of students attending non-government schools and, like the ALP, has committed funding to support the removal of asbestos and other hazardous materials to ensure our schools, wherever they are, are safe.

Yet again, this is a terrific announcement for Catholic education, and is further recognition of your commitment to seeing that your children are taught, in not only caring learning environments, but great teaching spaces that can inspire.

In the space of just three days, both major parties have offered a public endorsement of the quality and strength of our schools in the Catholic sector – and recognised their significance to the state.

Again, if you have the opportunity I would encourage you to write or email thanking Mr Guy and Mr Smith for their support for our education sector. Their addresses are:

The Hon Matthew Guy MP  
Leader of the Opposition  
157 Spring Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000  
matthew.guy@parliament.vic.gov.au

Mr Tim Smith MP  
Shadow Minister for Education  
Suite 1, 400 High Street  
KEW VIC 3101  
tim.smith@parliament.vic.gov.au

Thank you for your continued support for your school community.

Good wishes

Stephen Elder  
Executive Director