



# ASSUMPTION COLLEGE — KILMORE

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CONDUCTED BY THE MARIST BROTHERS

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008

Dear Parent

## Re: State Budget 2008/09 disappoints Catholic sector

I write to inform you about the impact of the announcements in the recent State Budget on Catholic schools in Victoria. The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) put in a detailed proposal for additional funding but the budget outcome was extremely disappointing. There is no new education and early childhood development funding for Catholic schools in the 2008/09 State Budget, even though the total new expenditure announced for Government schools amounted to \$1.3 billion. Catholic education has been ignored in this Budget.

As you are aware the CECV has been calling for additional funding over a number of years but these requests have been ignored by the State Government who continually claims that education is their number one priority. Legislation specifies that the Minister for Education is responsible for the educational needs of all students, regardless of sector. The need for extra funding for Catholic schools has never been more urgent.

State Government funding in Victoria continues to languish at the bottom of the table compared with all other states. Catholic schools in Victoria receive about \$578 less per child each year than children being educated in Catholic schools in New South Wales. This means that Victorian Catholic schools receive \$104 million less than their New South Wales counterparts. That is why we continue to press the Victorian Government to contribute 25% of the Australian Government School Recurrent Costs (AGSRC) to Catholic schools (currently we receive only 16% of the AGSRC from the Victorian Government), and that this increase be incorporated into State legislation.

Catholic schools had hoped that the 2008/09 budget would provide additional recurrent funds to assist our schools in matching the recent wage rise for teachers, this decision will place more strain on Catholic education, as the CECV is committed to wage parity with government teachers. Without a real increase in State recurrent funding, schools will be forced to make two difficult choices; reduce resources or increase school fees. The CECV may also be forced to review some recently implemented school projects such as initiatives in the areas of student wellbeing, students with disabilities, new arrivals, refugees, Indigenous students and support of low income families.

I am sure you would agree that this is an issue of the utmost importance as we are talking about the future of your children. The Catholic education community has the right, as taxpayers, to ask the Victorian Government to further assist in providing a quality education to achieve the best educational outcomes for your children. Increased funding will greatly assist the work of our principals and teachers to give your children the best opportunities in life.

If you wish to discuss these matters I encourage you to contact your local member of the Victorian Parliament.

Yours Sincerely

Michael Kenny  
Principal

REGISTERED SCHOOL NO. 111

MEMBER SCHOOL OF THE  
Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia  
Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria