7 March 2012

Dear Parents

**Latest school data heightens need for greater investment in school education**

On 24 February the latest round of school funding data was published on the government’s *My School* website.

The ACARA *My School* data identifies the amount of money each school in Australia received in 2010 for their day-to-day operations from all sources—Commonwealth and state governments and parent contributions—and provides an insight into the relative resources of all schools.

According to the data, government schools operate on average at around $11,520 per student and Catholic schools with around $10,340 per student.

Simply put, even when parent contributions are taken into account, Catholic schools receive on average around 10% less money for their day-to-day operations than government schools.

This means that Catholic schools continue to be the least resourced of all Australian schools.

While Catholic schools continue to deliver high quality education, doing ‘more with less’ is not sustainable into the future.

The recently released Gonski *Final Report on the Review of Funding for Schooling* identified that if Australia is to keep up with world standards then government investment in school education needs to increase by $5 billion per annum.

The Catholic education sector has strongly backed the call for more investment in education and the latest *My School* data strengthens the need for this to happen sooner rather than later.

On behalf of all our Catholic schools, the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) will be continuing efforts in the coming months to work with all governments to promote the urgent need for more funding for schools.
Only with additional investment by governments, will all school sectors be able to continue to deliver quality education for all Australian students.

Yours sincerely

Therese Temby
Chair