



**National Catholic  
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MEDIA RELEASE

### **CATHOLIC SECTOR WELCOMES EXPANDED TAX REBATE PROVISIONS**

The National Catholic Education Commission welcomes the announcement today from the Coalition that they will expand the Education Tax Rebate from 2011 – providing extra funds and permitting a wider range of education deductions for families eligible for Family Tax Benefit A with children attending school.

“This expanded benefit will be a great help to families on low-to-average incomes who have children at school”, said Dr Bill Griffiths, CEO of the National Catholic Education Commission.

“No child is denied a place in a Catholic school because of the parents’ inability to pay school fees”, said Dr Griffiths. “But the expanded benefit will help needy families everywhere meet the significant costs that all parents incur.

“Catholic schools work hard at keeping fee levels to a reasonable level. We acknowledge the significant bipartisan financial support Catholic schools receive from Governments. It is encouraging that a prospective government is prepared to support parents in this practical way”, said Dr Griffiths.

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **National Trade Cadetships**

The National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) supports the undertaking given yesterday by Prime Minister Julia Gillard to provide a clearer pathway for school students looking towards a trades career.

According to the Prime Minister's statement, the cadetships will have a curriculum path defined by ACARA as part of the Australian Curriculum and recognised by industry. The cadetships will be delivered at Trade Training Centres (TTCs).

"Of approximately 230 approved TTC projects there are 37 Trade Training Centres directly attached to Catholic schools. These 37 Catholic TTCs are accessed by students from 52 other Catholic school clusters. Catholic students may also access some TTCs in the Government and Independent sectors as part of a cluster arrangement", said Dr Bill Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer of the NCEC.

Catholic secondary schools cater for a wide range of student interest. "We are keen to encourage young people to keep their career options open, and to investigate different education and training pathways.

"Better formal links with the VET sector, including credit transfer, will assist Catholic secondary schools better meet the needs of students", said Dr Griffiths.

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