

## MEDIA STATEMENT

### Submission to the Review of Funding for Schooling

The NCEC Submission to the Review of Funding for Schooling is now publicly available on the NCEC web-site at [www.ncec.catholic.edu.au](http://www.ncec.catholic.edu.au)

Catholic schools educate over 704,000 children – 1 in 5 Australian children - in 1700 schools across the country. The Catholic school sector is the second largest provider of school education in Australia and has played a vital role in educating Australia's children within our faith tradition for 170 years.

Mrs Therese Temby, NCEC Chair, said:

'NCEC welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the national debate on improving Australia's school funding system. NCEC is keen to see vibrant schools in all sectors working for better learning outcomes for all young people, and a better future for all families and for Australia.

'The review provides an opportunity for governments and Catholic Education to work together to improve equity in Australian schooling by building together on the strong performance of Catholic schools.

'Recent international and national research confirms that Australia's Catholic schools deliver world class education that is both high equity and high quality.

'And Catholic schools achieve these excellent learning outcomes in a funding environment where average Catholic school net recurrent income per student is just \$10 008.'

The average net recurrent income per student in government schools is \$11, 132 (*MySchool* website, 4 March 2011).

The NCEC submission calls for:

- The maintenance of block funding to State and Territory Catholic Education Commissions to enable Catholic school systems to continue to distribute funds according to assessed local need
- Appropriate funding to assist Indigenous students, students with disability, schools in regional and remote areas, and new arrival and refugee students (for whom English is a second language) to achieve better educational outcomes
- As a minimum, no reduction in overall funding in real terms to enable Catholic Education to continue to provide high quality, high equity education.

Mrs Temby said:

'All schools need the resources necessary to provide a quality education for Australia's children.

'Catholic schools cater for the needs of all students and families, and welcome students from diverse cultural, social and economic backgrounds including from some of the most disadvantaged communities in Australia.

'We welcome the Review as an opportunity to strengthen the partnership between our schools, parents and both State and Australian Governments to continue to provide world class Catholic education.'

**ENDS**

Contact

Dr Bill Griffiths 0488 057 660

Chief Executive Officer, National Catholic Education Commission, Canberra

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