

Catholic Schools - Partners in Tasmania's Future

Party Responses to Catholic Education Requests

Requests	Tasmanian Liberals	Tasmanian Labor
<p>Recurrent Funding - Schools <i>Catholic schools call on all political parties to fund the gap in the Australian Government's Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) over the next 6 years.</i></p>	<p>Maintain commitment to additional Students First (Gonski) funding for the non-government sector of \$36 million over six years (2013-2018).</p> <p>Maintain the existing 2017 funding pool for 2018, even though the Australian Government's adjusted School Resourcing Standard (SRS) reflects a reduced funding requirement for 2018. This maintenance, along with \$3.1 million for transition and 2.5 per cent indexation, contributes to an overall increase in the order of nine per cent compared to 2017 funding levels.</p>	<p>Labor is committed to delivering the existing capital works funding and pre-committed additional \$36 million recurrent funding to non-government schools in Tasmania.</p>
<p>Capital Funding – Schools <i>Catholic Education is seeking retention and extension of the additional Capital assistance provided in the 2017-18 Budget currently worth an additional \$950,000 annually to our sector beyond the four year forward estimates and to build in appropriate levels of indexation that reflect rising building costs.</i></p>	<p>Extend the additional capital assistance provided in the 2017/18 budget over the forward estimates period to the 2021/22 financial year. This will equate to an additional \$950,000 per year in capital assistance for Catholic schools over the forward estimates.</p>	
<p>Increased support for the Early Years <i>To expand greater access to early learning opportunities already offered to parents in government schools, Catholic education is seeking funding support over the next four years to provide Birth to 4 (B4) programs for parents choosing a Catholic education.</i></p>	<p>Re-affirmed support for early years learning through committing funding to the <i>Working Together for three year olds – targeted pre-school initiative</i> program to provide a free additional year of pre-school to vulnerable or disadvantaged three year olds across Tasmania.</p> <p>Catholic providers of pre-school services will be eligible for this, should they become accredited.</p>	<p>Committed to building six new Child and Family Centres (that could be accessed by our families).</p>
<p>Better access to Health Care checks <i>A new partnership needs to be developed with Government to assist children in Catholic schools to have hearing and sight checks similar to that provided to state school students.</i></p>	<p>Provide a new grant for student support for Catholic and Independent schools in low socioeconomic communities to provide additional student support where it is needed. This equates to approximately \$158,250 for Catholic schools per year, or \$633,000 over the forward estimates. There will be some flexibility in the application of the funds, however additional literacy and numeracy support or access to allied health or support services such as hearing and sight checks, speech therapy, psychology or a social worker may be included.</p>	<p>A Labor Government will give school nurses more career options within the health system by moving them into the Tasmanian Health Service.</p> <p>School nurses will perform sight and hearing checks on every Tasmanian student aged between five and nine.</p> <p>Labor will work with Catholic education and private schools to deliver the program through shared funding.</p>
<p>Cross-Sectoral Collaboration for Teacher Professional Learning</p>	<p>Supports cross-sectoral collaboration particularly on the west coast.</p>	<p>Labor will always support the opportunity for teachers to share knowledge across sectors.</p>
<p>Supporting Vocational Education <i>Catholic education is calling on Government for appropriate funding to ensure equity of access to TAFE VET programs for Years 10 to 12 students.</i></p>	<p>No specific response</p>	<p>Labor will offer 3,000 targeted TAFE scholarships. The \$1,000 scholarships will be used to fill key skills gaps, as identified by Labor's new Industry Advisory Councils.</p>
<p>Sustainability <i>To broaden the availability of conversion to solar power and increase the uptake of this option for Catholic schools.</i></p>	<p>No specific response</p>	<p>Labor will seek financing assistance from the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and ARENA to expand the Community Solar Hub program to government buildings such as schools, hospitals and offices and would welcome discussions with the Catholic Education Commission regarding involvement in this program.</p>
<p>Support for Parent Engagement <i>Catholic Education is seeking financial support for parent engagement.</i></p>	<p>No specific response</p>	<p>No specific response</p>
<p>Additional Commitments</p>	<p>Work with the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office on a long-term accommodation solution for the St Francis Flexible Learning Centre in the Northern Suburbs of Hobart.</p>	<p>Under a Labor Government all students attending their nearest public or school of their chosen faith will be provided with free public transport.</p>