18th March, 2013

Dear parents and carers,

We’re getting anxious! Will the new funding model deliver? It had better!

The Federation cautiously welcomed the Prime Minister’s September 2012 announcement about funding for schooling into the future.

However, 6 months later...

The fine detail about the funding model and the dollars to fund it is still being negotiated between the federal government, and state/territory governments, the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) and the Independent Schools Council of Australia (ISCA).

Recent parliamentary inquiries confirm that the NCEC and ISCA have grave concerns about the different models the federal government has presented to them, and the potential implications for our children and our schools, including the impact on fees and the future viability of some schools.

Current federal funding agreements for our schools expire at the end of this year.

It is likely that we won’t know how many dollars the federal government will put in to a new funding model until May. And we don’t know what the South Australian government intends to contribute. We still hold the South Australian government to account regarding its 2010 election commitment to address its unacceptably low level of funding for children in Catholic schools compared to the national average.

This uncertainty is unacceptable.

The Federation, along with Catholic Education SA, will continue to work on your behalf to ensure any new model provides the funding and other support your children need to succeed in their schooling, and for fees to remain affordable.

Over the past few months, Federation representatives have met with Senator Penny Wright (Australian Greens), Senator Don Farrell (Labor) and Shadow Minister for Education, Christopher Pyne. We have also provided support to school delegations to local MPs.

The voice of parents is crucial in this time of significant reform and uncertainty.

Let’s ensure our voices are heard.
Let’s make it clear that we’re passionate about our children’s education.
Let’s make it clear that we support Catholic education...and we vote.

Caz Bosch
President

Ann Bliss
Executive Director