



media release

CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE SYDNEY

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For Immediate Release

Catholic schools are NOT overfunded!

A front-page story in this morning's *Sydney Morning Herald* claims that many Catholic schools, including five in the Archdiocese of Sydney, are overfunded. This is not the case. These are the facts:

Fact 1: Catholic systemic schools receive substantially less total government funding (State and Federal Government combined) than State schools.

Fact 2: Even when school fees for systemic Catholic schools are added to the funding provided by both governments, **the total amount of funding per student it is still less than for State schools.**

Fact 3: What the public is never – or rarely – told is that **non-government schools receive only 8.5% from the funds provided by the State Government.** Without Federal Government funding, Catholic schools could not operate.

Fact 4: The funding that Catholic schools receive through the 'funding maintained' component is exactly the amount that each school is entitled to receive according to the Act. **These schools are not overfunded.**

Fact 5: Our schools are not funded individually. We operate as a 'system of schools' which means money and resources are redirected from more economically advantaged schools to less economically advantaged schools.

Despite our repeated attempts to present a complete explanation of how schools are funded, some interest groups persist in offering only one side of the funding picture. This is unfair. It is important to never lose sight of the fact that **every child, regardless of the school he or she attends, is entitled to the best education that our nation can provide.** Simplistic arguments about the relative merits of government and non-government schools lose sight of the fact that any model must reflect what is best for **all students.**

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