

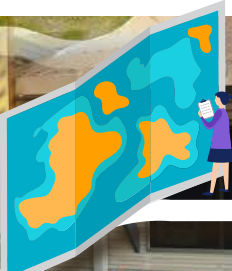


PROVIDING

FAIRER FUNDING

FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN WA

REQUESTS FOR THE 2025 WA STATE ELECTION



Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) enrolls nearly 69,000 students in 149 schools across Western Australia. Another 13,000 students are enrolled in Catholic schools which have their own governing bodies who are part of the Catholic education community in WA.

This means 1 in 5 WA school children attend a Catholic school. There is barely a part of the state which does not have a Catholic school in it, and in some parts of the Kimberley we are the sole education provider.

According to analysis by Ernst and Young (EY) Catholic education will:

Save the WA government approximately
\$698m
in 2024

Make a gross value-added contribution to the State's economy of approximately
\$2.76b
every year

By choosing a Catholic school parents, who also pay taxes, represent a significant saving to taxpayers. In fact, we know that **the State Government would need to invest \$6.4b in additional capital expenditure for school infrastructure** if Catholic school students were required to be educated in Government schools.

Parents make that choice because our schools are affordable, accessible and promote excellence by supporting students to discover their own talents and make positive contributions to their communities. And in recognition of the increasing financial pressures facing families, one of our fundamental goals is keeping fees as low as possible and maintaining affordability.



Catholic schools cater for families from a variety of social, cultural and economic backgrounds including

158
different home languages and over

5,000
families who hold a Concession Card and are eligible for a discount,

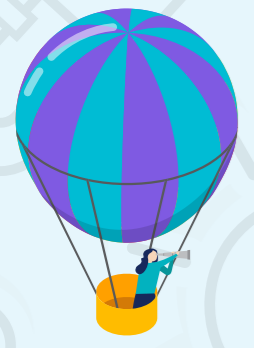
who make a significant contribution to their children's education.



We recognise the privileged position we hold in being able to serve the Western Australian community and value the enduring partnership with the State Government, which is vital to ensuring all schools, including Catholic schools, can better support the State's growing student population.

Ahead of the 2025 election we are calling on all political parties to put children first and commit to funding that's fair for our families, it's fair for our teachers and it's fair for the taxpayer.





3 STEPS

TO RESTORE

FAIRNESS IN SCHOOL FUNDING



#1

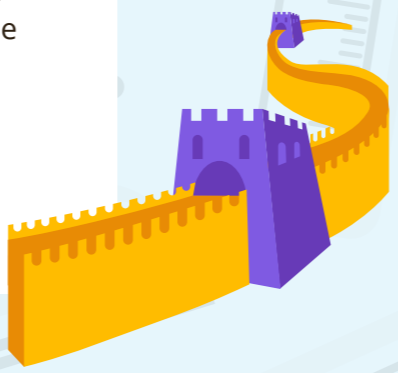
Commit \$25m in ongoing State Government Capital Grant Funding to ensure students in WA Catholic Schools have parity with other students across Australia.



In Western Australia, Catholic schools fund approximately **90% of capital costs from private contributions**, through fees or fundraising efforts from parents. An independent analysis, conducted by EY, shows the State Government would need **\$6.4 billion in additional capital expenditure** to establish the necessary school infrastructure to replace the Catholic school sector. This highlights the risk to taxpayers which arises from a lack of sustainable capital funding for Catholic school construction and improvement.

Each child, regardless of their financial means or location of learning, should be treated equally and be able to learn in school facilities which meet their diverse educational needs. Across Australia, outside of Western Australia and the Northern Territory, Catholic Schools received an average of \$309 per pupil in Capital funding in 2023 (see Table 1).

Currently, students in our state receive no Government funding for Capital.



#2

Invest an additional one-off \$100m over five years to address the legacy of capital underfunding for Catholic schools in the Kimberley.

CEWA is the sole education provider in seven locations across the Kimberley including

- Warmun
- Ringer Soak
- Billiluna
- Mulan
- Balgo
- Beagle Bay
- Lombadina

100% of students enrolled in these schools are First Nations students. In addition, CEWA's Curriculum and Re-engagement in Education (CARE) school in Broome provides support to Aboriginal youth who have become disengaged with mainstream schooling.

Through a detailed internal analysis of capital works undertaken across Catholic schools in the Kimberley over the last five years, and a review of the capital needs for schools across the Kimberley, we have identified a number of **projects to upgrade schools in line with their metro equivalents**. Costing is informed by third party architect feedback, quantity surveyor estimates, contractor advice, or top-level assessments based on previous projects and anticipated scope of works.

CEWA could complete these projects in a five-year window, between 2025 and 2029, depending on the capacity of the local construction industry.

#3

The State Government meet the cost of insurance and risk management of \$2m annually, and work with CEWA to ensure ongoing access to additional funding in the event of an uninsured loss.

The ability to insure schools in the Kimberley region is a known challenge with very limited Insurer appetite.

In the event that cover was obtainable, this would be at an increased premium with complete exclusions for flood and weather perils.

The cost of insurance and risk management for schools across the Kimberley region is \$2m. In addition to the cost of insurance, CEWA retains \$25m of uninsured risks in the region.

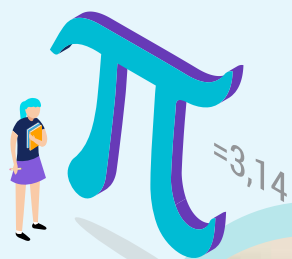


STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDING

FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS ACROSS AUSTRALIA



State	Capital Funding \$ (2023)	Notes
VIC	\$117m	Estimate, assuming 50/50 distribution between Catholic and Independent Sector. \$700m over term of Government.
QLD	\$92.23m	Includes State Government Capital Assistance Scheme, State Government Supplementary Scheme, and Infrastructure Subsidy Scheme.
NSW	\$75m	Pro-rata. \$300m over four years (2019/20 to 2022/23).
SA	\$6.22m	State Capital Funding.
ACT	\$3.75m	Joint BGA (all Non-Government schools).
TAS	\$2m	Joint BGA (all Non-Government schools). Non-Government School State Capital Assistance Scheme.
NT	\$0	No grant or loan available.
WA	\$0	No grant available.





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Welcome



**CATHOLIC
EDUCATION**
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



To stay up to date with our latest news and happenings, follow our social media pages

www.fairfunding.cewa.edu.au