11 November 2009

CIRCULAR TO PRINCIPALS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN VICTORIA

Dear Principal

Re: New Funding Agreement with the Victorian Government for Catholic Schools, 2010-2013.

I am pleased to inform you that the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) has now finalised and signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a new funding agreement with the Victorian Government for the next four years.

The new agreement acknowledges the important contribution of Victorian Catholic schools to education in Victoria and I have expressed the thanks of the CECV to the Hon Bronwyn Pike MP, the Minister for Education in this regard. This new agreement represents a significant step towards our goal of State Government funding equivalent to 25% of the cost of education in a Victorian Government school.

The CECV estimates that the new agreement will deliver more than $274 million to Victorian Catholic schools over the next four years in addition to the annual funding from the Victorian Government continuing at the 2009 level. These estimates are based on the genuine need identified in Catholic schools. The agreement is a good result for Victorian Catholic schools at this time. Over four years it will deliver $110 million more in additional funding than was achieved under the previous State agreement.

Further information on the details of the agreement will be made available shortly from the Directors of each Catholic Education Office.

I wish to thank you and your school community for the hard work, dedication and support you have shown to the cause of obtaining equitable government funding for Victorian Catholic schools. This agreement would not have been possible without the work of schools and their communities.

I also take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in Victorian Catholic schools for their dedication and commitment to the ministry of the Church in education and the continuing support they provide to young people in our care.

Yours sincerely

+ Timothy Costelloe SDB
Most Rev Timothy Costelloe DD SDB EV
CHAIRMAN
Catholic Education Commission of Victoria