

Advice 3

What to expect with my School Fees 2025 to 2029?

Let's recap...

the Federal Government funding model (SRS) determines State and Federal Government funding to schools in Australia....

Base Funding Primary Student = \$13,557 Secondary Student = \$17,036 (2024)



Loadings

Additional funding for six types of students and schools in priority cohorts. Student disadvantage: Indigeneity, Disability, Socio-Educational, Low-English Proficiency. School disadvantage: Size and Location.



Capacity to Contribute

% of base funding that Non-Government schools must raise privately, ranging from 10% to 80%, depending on the median income of parents at the school.

School Resource Standard (SRS)

Per student funding is calculated on the unique characteristics of each school, its parents and its students.

Source: National Catholic Education Commission 2023

Let's focus on Capacity to Contribute (CTC)...

Base funding paid by the Federal and State Government is reduced by school's parents CTC.

Capacity to Contribute

% of base funding that Non-Government schools must raise privately, ranging from 10% to 80%, depending on the median income of parents at the school.



As the CTC increases, the % contribution through School Fees increases.



CTC is determined by the median income of parents at the school.



How does my school fit within the Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton?

Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton (CEDR) delivers excellent and equitable resourcing levels to all systemic schools, through the leveraging of collective expertise, economies of scale, mission commitment, governance structures and ensuring legislative compliance.



How will an appropriate School Fee model be determined?

CEDR has developed a school fee model that aligns with the Federal Government's SRS funding model and CEDR's school funding "Guiding Principles" (see over).



How long will the transition take?

CEDR schools will transition to the new arrangement by 2029. This aligns with the Federal Government's transition arrangements.





CEDR School Funding: Guiding Principles



Mission

Promote CEDR's mission by:

- Continuing to provide excellent and equitable Catholic Education across the Diocese.
- Ensuring affordability for all seeking a Catholic Education through:
 - Maintaining a discount and concession arrangement.
 - Adopting a school fee structure that reflects the Federal Government's means tested CTC model.



Sustainability

Ensure sustainability of Catholic Education's mission in the long term by:

- Preserving the system benefits enjoyed by Catholic schools and families, that ensure high quality education, mission delivery, governance and cost efficiency.
- Accepting the School Resource Standard (SRS) as the minimum cost of delivering education in CEDR schools, noting increasing costs impacting Catholic schools.
- Maximising funding flowing into the system of schools, by aligning school fees to parent Capacity to Contribute (CTC), at a minimum.
- Revising annually to reflect school CTC, SRS and any other Government influences.



Transparency

Ensure CEDRs school funding model aligns with the Federal Government SRS funding model, including:

- Government's assessment of 'need' (through distributing all loadings directly to schools).
- Government's assessment of 'who can afford' (through aligning school fees with means tested Capacity to Contribute).

School Fee Model from 2025: CEDR Adapted Cluster Model

The CEDR Adapted Cluster Model aligns school fees with the Federal Government determined Capacity to Contribute (CTC) of the school, but also recognises the importance of similar and nearby schools not being differentiated based on higher or lower schools fees. Key points include:



Schools within the same region with similar CTCs are "clustered".

Clustered primary schools and clustered secondary schools charge the same school fee.

Clusters will occur in large regional centres such as Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Emerald and Bundaberg.



Schools not within a cluster charge school fees equal to the CTC of the school.

