

## State Election Alert 4

9 November 2010

The campaign for the state election formally commenced last week with the issuing of the writs by the Governor of Victoria. Both the Premier and Opposition leader have been active in announcing policies related to education which mostly relate to government school funding. Today I can announce that the CECV has successfully secured bi-partisan support for 25% funding for Catholic education.

### **Historic 25% funding agreement for Catholic Education**

The Premier, John Brumby, and Minister for Education, Bronwyn Pike, have today announced their support for Catholic schools with a commitment to link state funding to 25% of the cost of education in a state school. They visited St Joseph's School, Quarry Hill and Holy Rosary School, Kensington to make the announcement.

This is a truly historic announcement for Catholic education in Victoria and provides a sustainable level of state funding for the future. The most significant aspect of the new funding commitment is that it will *permanently* and *transparently* link funding for Catholic schools in Victoria to 25% of the cost of education in a state school.

For some time the CECV has been coordinating activities to raise the issue of fair state funding for Catholic schools in Victoria. This bi-partisan commitment is the result of strong advocacy by Catholic education offices, parish priests, principals and parents who have respectfully raised the issue of fair funding for Catholic schools with our political leaders. I know that this has required an unprecedented effort by many people but the significance of this agreement is testament to the importance of this work.

As recently as 2006 state government funding made up just 15% of the total income of Catholic schools. In November 2009 the CECV reached a new agreement with the Victorian government for a four year funding agreement. That agreement significantly increased state funding to Catholic schools. At the time we estimated that by 2013 the new funding deal would mean that state funding to Catholic schools would increase from around 18% of government school costs to 22%.

As a result of today's commitment by the Brumby Government by 2012 Catholic schools will receive 25% of the cost of education in a state school. This is a dramatic turnaround in state funding for Catholic schools. On your behalf I have conveyed my thanks to Minister Pike for her commitment to Catholic education.

This commitment to a permanent link means that Catholic schools will no longer be forced to beg for additional funding to maintain a level that state government schools take for granted. The funding link should also mean that the pressure on school fees for parents will be reduced.

### **Coalition commitment to 25%**

The Coalition has previously committed to provide state funding to Catholic schools at 25% of the cost of education in a state school. The leadership of Liberal Party Leader, Ted Baillieu, and National Party Leader, Peter Ryan, together with the Shadow Minister for Education, Martin Dixon, has been significant in obtaining this commitment.

We expect to have further details of the Coalition commitment as it is restated in the course of the formal election campaign.



### ***Further information for parishes, schools and parents***

The CECV is producing a brochure for distribution to parents and teachers which explains the funding announcement by the State Government. We anticipate that your school will receive this brochure shortly.

Talking points and further details will also be made available in the coming days through CEVN.

In the meantime please find below a suggested insert for your school newsletter.

Thank you for your continuing efforts to help secure this fantastic result.

As always if you have any further questions in relation to this or other matters please do not hesitate to contact your Director.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Elder  
Executive Director, CECV

### ***Suggested Newsletter Insert***

#### **Historic Funding Agreement for Catholic schools**

The Premier and Minister for Education have this week announced that a re-elected Brumby Government will provide state funding to Catholic schools linked to 25% of the cost of education in a state school. This is a truly historic commitment to sustainable state funding for Catholic schools in Victoria. Only four years ago state funding made up only 15% of the income of Catholic schools.

Catholic education has now achieved bi-partisan commitment to fund Catholic schools at 25% of the cost of education in a state school. The Coalition previously committed to state funding for Catholic schools at 25% of the cost of education in a state school.

This commitment is a result of the hard work of many Parish Priests, principals, teachers and parents in raising the issue of fair funding for Catholic schools with our political leaders. This historic achievement is a direct result of that strong advocacy. Thank you in particular to parents who have written to local MPs raising the issue of funding. Your work will have a lasting legacy in delivering sustainable funding to Catholic schools in Victoria.

Never again should state funding for Catholic schools be a political issue at a state election.

