



CATHOLIC EDUCATION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

4 March 2025

Dear Parents/Caregivers and Colleagues

Last week we wrote to you regarding the response by the major political parties related to their respective positions on Catholic Education Western Australia's (CEWA) requests for capital grant funding from the next State Government.

At the time of writing our letter the Liberal Party had not provided their position to our requests. On Friday 28 February, the Leader of the **Liberal Party** provided the following commitments should they form government after the 8 March State Election:

- Extending the current low interest loan scheme maturity period to 20 years
- Increasing the borrowing cap by 50%

As you will recall, CEWA had requested the Labor Party, National Party and Liberal Party to commit to the following if they formed government after the 8 March election:

- An annual \$25 million capital grant to ensure Catholic school students have parity with other students across Australia.
- A one-off \$100 million capital injection over 5 years to address underfunding in Catholic schools in the Kimberley.
- An annual \$2 million grant for insurance and risk management costs in the Kimberley.

To ensure a valid and transparent comparison of the respective positions of the major parties, by way of a reminder, the Labor Party and National Party have promised the following:

- The **Labor Party**, if re-elected, will introduce an \$8 million infrastructure grants program for 14 sole provider schools in Kimberley, including seven Catholic schools, and will continue the low-interest loans scheme.
- The **National Party** has not made specific commitments but acknowledged the role of Catholic education in WA, especially in remote areas.

As outlined in our previous letter, State Government capital grants to Catholic schools will ease the financial burden on parents and will ensure that children attending our schools continue to have access to appropriate learning facilities.

We continue to urge you to contact your local candidates to inquire about their party's stance on capital funding for Catholic schools. This information can help you decide whom to vote for in the 8 March election.

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