



Tasmanian Catholic Schools Parents and Friends Federation

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Media Release

Fighting to stop funding cuts to Tasmanian Catholic Schools

Tasmania's 37 Catholic schools and colleges have been hit with an unacceptable double funding cut in the 2011 - 2012 State Budget, says the Tasmanian Catholic School Parents and Friends Federation (TCSPFF).

Because the Tasmanian Department of Education is facing significant budget cuts as a whole, Tasmanian Catholic schools will receive an additional 5% outside the reduction in funding which occurs under the current agreement with the Government.

TCSPFF President Mr Damian von Samorzewski said this double hit on Catholic schools means that parents, grandparents and carers may face significant school fee increases.

Mr von Samorzewski said this reduction which came as a surprise to both Catholic Education and the TCSPFF, could amount to 10 - 14% fee increase in real terms.

"The Tasmanian Minister for Education and Skills, Hon. Nick McKim was breaking the state funding agreement that has been in place since 1998, and that many families that choose to send their children to Catholic schools already sacrifice much to do so," he said.

"Many families are already struggling from the recent increases in the cost of living. School fee increases of this magnitude will push these struggling families to breaking point. Parents that choose a Catholic school provide significant savings for the Tasmanian government in overall educational costs."

"Currently this is \$5512, based on recurrent expenditure per student (Report on Government Services 2007 - 08). These saving should be taken into account when the Minister makes these types decisions but obviously haven't been."

The Tasmanian Catholic School Parents and Friends Federation has created a petition and all parents, school staff and the Church's parishes have been asked to support it. Catholic schools are but one arm of the Archdiocese of Hobart, who is one of the state's largest private employers.

The petition can also be signed online at

<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/stop-tasmanian-catholic-school-funding-cuts.html>

The Tasmanian Catholic School Parents and Friends Federation is the peak body that represents parents, friends and the associations of Tasmanian's 37 Catholic schools which educate nearly 16000 students state-wide..

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