



GOOD COUNSEL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Seek, Learn and Serve

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18.07.2017

CATHOLIC SCHOOL FEE DISCOUNTS – Term 3, 2017

Dear Parents,

Previously, we had informed the parent body of the Catholic School Fee Discounts that apply for the 2017 school year (please see attached).

In preparation for Term 3 fees to issue next week, we now ask any new parents who may be eligible for either:

- Pensioner and Health Card Fee discount – please note that any discount will be in relation to Tuition fees only. Discounts do not apply to school levies.

OR

- Special Consideration – families without a HCC who are experiencing genuine financial hardship in paying fees and require a remission

OR

- **Existing parents** whose Concession Card has now expired or now hold a valid HCC category

to call into the office in person to collect the relevant documentation.

Existing families with expired concession cards re- applying for the HCC Discount must present with their current valid Health Care or Pensioner Card which must be sighted and copied for our records and return the completed form to the office **by no later than Friday, 21st July, 2017.**

New Families with concession cards - On presentation to the office with your current concession card you will be required to complete the relevant documentation and return the completed forms to the office **by no later than Friday, 21st July, 2017** so the discount can be applied.

Families who are seeking a Special Consideration remission need to have called into the office to arrange an interview with me **by no later than Friday, 21st July, 2017.** If no arrangements have been made prior to Term Three fees being issued next week, it will be assumed that you do not require a remission and are able to make full payment of school fees.

Please note that this discount arrangement is only valid for 2017 and families will need to re-apply next year should it be necessary.

If you have any further queries, please feel free to call into the office.

Regards,

Liam KENNY
PRINCIPAL

(Atch)

Catholic Education Diocese of Cairns

CATHOLIC SCHOOL FEE DISCOUNTS from and including 2017



**Catholic
Education**
Diocese of Cairns
Learning with Faith and Vision

For families with more than one child in primary and/or secondary Catholic schools in the Cairns Diocese, attend a country school, or hold a Health Care or Pensioner Concession card.

Why do Catholic schools have fees?

To provide quality learning environments, Catholic schools have fees to help meet the shortfall in Government funding. Catholic schools strive to keep fees as low as possible.

The term 'school fees' includes tuition fees and levies. Each school assesses the school levies necessary to meet their individual school and community operation requirements.

In doing this they are firstly guided by the diocesan tuition fee set by Catholic Education Services.

How do I enrol my child in a Catholic school?

Parents/carers are encouraged to contact the Principal of their preferred Catholic school to find out about their enrolment procedures and what information is required to complete the enrolment application (eg: birth certificate, baptism certificate, school reports and academic records if applicable). Enrolment applications are accepted at any time.

Schools may not always be able to accept every family who applies, due to the availability of places.

In these cases, the Principal is guided by the Cairns Catholic Education enrolment policy that has been set by the Diocesan Education Board of Governance. Many schools have waiting lists if this occurs.

Multi-student/school family discount

Families with more than one child in the same or other primary or secondary Catholic schools in the Cairns Diocese receive fee discounts for the second, third and subsequent children.

This information is collected by the school at the time of enrolment and the discount is automatically applied.

Country area discount

Schools in more remote, country areas also qualify for a further Country discount. This discount automatically applies at the time of enrolment. Country schools are listed on the Cairns Catholic Education schedule of fees.

Pensioner and health care card holder fee discount

In addition to these family and country school discounts that have historically been offered, Cairns Catholic Education offers a means-tested concession card discount. Parents/carers with a means-tested Australian government health care or pensioner concession card may be eligible to receive a 70% discount to tuition fees (does not apply to school levies).

Card holders are required to advise the school of their concession card at enrolment or when the card is gained. Once the card is sighted by the school's administration, tuition fees for future terms only will be adjusted. This scheme is intended to assist those families who genuinely do not have the financial capacity to pay tuition fees in full.

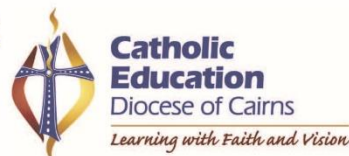
Special consideration

Families without a means-tested concession card who are experiencing genuine financial hardship in paying fees should speak with their school Principal or Parish Priest to apply for special consideration.

No child will be denied enrolment due to genuine financial difficulty which has been verified by the school.

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TUITION FEE DISCOUNTS FOR HOLDERS OF MEANS-TESTED HEALTH CARE & PENSIONER CONCESSION CARDS



Catholic schools in the Diocese of Cairns provide a discount on tuition fees for holders of means-tested Health Care and Pensioner Concession Cards.

The discount applies to tuition fees and not to school levies and charges.

The cards must be current and list, as dependents, the students for whom the discount is sought.

Two categories of cards are eligible for the discount:

Health Care Cards

Only cards with the following codes are means-tested or subject to an income and assets test are eligible for the reduced tuition fee rate:

- FA (Family Allowance)
- PP (Parenting Payment (partnered))
- NSA (New Start Allowance)
- PA (Partner Allowance)
- SA (Sickness Allowance)
- SL (Special Benefit)
- WA (Widow Allowance)
- LI (Low Income)



Pensioner Concession Cards

Only cards with the following codes are means-tested or subject to an income and assets test are eligible for the reduced tuition fee rate:

- PPS (Parenting Payment Single)
- PP (Parenting Payment (partnered))
- NSA (New Start Allowance)
- PA (Partner Allowance)
- SA (Sickness Allowance)
- SL (Special Benefit)
- WA (Widow Allowance)



Other codes such as (DSP, CAR, AGE) are not eligible for couples as the means-test criteria are more generous. However, single parents/carers with these cards will be eligible.

(continued overleaf)

TUITION FEE DISCOUNTS FOR HOLDERS OF MEANS-TESTED HEALTH CARE & PENSIONER CONCESSION CARDS



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How to apply

Parents and carers should present their eligible card to the school office for verification. The school will make a copy of the card and provide a Health Care Card Tuition Fee Discount Scheme Form for the parent/carer to complete – this is a single page form. The fee discount will then be applied to tuition fees on future term invoices. For families with children at a number of Cairns Catholic schools this process must be repeated for each school.

The discount arrangement will expire on the expiry date of the card or at the end of the school year. Parents and carers receiving the discount have a duty to inform the school of any renewal or change in eligibility for the card.

A discount of 70% on tuition fees will apply to holders of eligible cards.

What if a family is still not able to pay the discounted tuition fee and school levies?

Families in significant financial hardship are asked to make an appointment with the school Principal who will assess whether the family's financial circumstances meet the criteria for additional support. The process looks at family income, the number of dependents and the family's cost of housing (rental or mortgage). This process requires full disclosure and is treated with sensitivity and confidentiality.

What if a family without a means-tested concession card is having difficulty in paying fees?

Families without a means tested Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card who are experiencing genuine financial hardship in paying fees should speak with their school Principal or Parish Priest to apply for special consideration.

The same process as above will apply in determining an appropriate fee concession arrangement. No child will be denied enrolment due to financial difficulty.

Further information

Please contact the school office.

Good Counsel College, Innisfail	4063 5300
Good Counsel Primary School, Innisfail	4061 2994
Holy Cross School, Trinity Park	4057 6920
MacKillop Catholic College, Mount Peter	4045 5262
Mother of Good Counsel School, Nth Cairns	4053 6133
Mount St Bernard College, Herberton	4096 1444
Our Lady Help of Christians School, Earlvile	4054 2566
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, TI	4069 2203
St Andrew's Catholic College, Redlynch	4039 5200
St Anthony's School, Dimbulah	4093 5319
St Augustine's College, Cairns	4051 5555
St Augustine's School, Mossman	4098 1631
St Clare's School, Tully	4068 1527
St Francis Xavier's School, Manunda	4037 9900
St Gerard Majella School, Woree	4054 4805
St John's School, Silkwood	4065 2193
St Joseph's Parish School, Weipa	4069 9500
St Joseph's School, Atherton	4091 4211
St Joseph's School, Parramatta Park	4051 4041
St Mary's Catholic College, Woree	4044 4200
St Michael's School, Gordonvale	4056 1614
St Monica's College, Cairns	4042 4800
St Rita's School, Babinda	4067 1467
St Rita's School, South Johnstone	4064 2153
St Stephen's Catholic College, Mareeba	4086 2500
St Teresa's School, Ravenshoe	4097 6173
St Therese's School, Bentley Park	4055 4514
St Thomas's School, Mareeba	4092 1570