



25 June 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Update on tuition fees for Term 3 and for 2021

On behalf of all who work in the Catholic Education community in Cairns I would like to thank you again for your ongoing support of our schools as we negotiate this challenging period in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The last term has been like no other, and as it draws to a close, we can share a sense of achievement that our children's education continued, albeit in ways we might never have imagined only a few months ago.

I would like to advise all families of tuition fee arrangements for Term 3 and to advise there will be no increase in tuition fees at our schools and colleges in 2021.

Term 3 tuition fees

The Concession Card discount on tuition fees will continue at 100% in Term 3. New recipients of these cards will have their discounts backdated to Term 2.

Term 3 family invoices will be sent in Week 4. Families with a newly acquired Concession Card should present the card to their school prior to Week 4 although the discount can be backdated to Term 2 if the card is acquired or presented later than Week 4.

Families not eligible for the Concession Card but which are experiencing financial hardship should contact their Principal – fee relief is available, and all requests will be treated with respect, sensitivity and confidentiality.

As we have advised previously we expect families which have not experienced financial hardship to continue to pay their fees. This supports our schools' commitment to continue to provide high quality education for your children and also assists our capacity to provide assistance to families in genuine need.

2021 fees

In 2021 there will be no increase in tuition fees, a decision made in response to our expectation that many families will continue to experience financial hardship as our regional economy continues its recovery from the coronavirus impacts.

Although this decision only affects tuition fees, all schools and colleges will be reviewing their school levies with a view to maintaining fees to the current levels or minimising any increase to what is absolutely necessary.

For Catholic schools, the need to charge tuition fees and levies arises from the lower funding that is provided by governments for students in non-government schools. Tuition fees are used by schools to meet ongoing expenditure of the school. A minor portion of the tuition fee is used



to fund the purchase of land for existing and new schools and accommodation for teaching staff in remote areas.

The 2021 tuition fee schedule for families with children attending primary and secondary schools in the Diocese of Cairns is attached. Sibling discounts will continue to be offered to families with more than one child enrolled in one or more Catholic schools in the Cairns Diocese, at 15% for two students, 30% for three students and no additional tuition fee for four or more students.

I appreciate that some families may face financial hardship in meeting fees and levies. It is important that families who want to access Catholic Education for their children are not excluded because they do not have the means to pay fees. It is our policy and practice to assist any family in this situation.

Thank you for your continuing commitment to Catholic Education. We are proud of the quality of education provided in our schools and we are keenly aware and grateful for your support.

With best wishes,



Bill Dixon
Executive Director

