



18 October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

2023 Tuition Fees

As we begin Term 4, planning for the 2023 school year is well under way. As part of our process of ensuring that a Catholic Education remains affordable, we have conducted our annual review to determine the level of school tuition fees in 2023. At a time when the national inflation rate is 6.8%, I am pleased to advise you that we have been able to restrict the increase in tuition fees for our primary and secondary schools to just 3% for 2023.

The decision to raise fees is not taken lightly, nor made without careful consideration of the resource needs of schools, balanced against the capacity of families to contribute. For Catholic schools, the need to charge tuition fees and levies arises from the lower per capita funding that is provided by governments for students who attend non-government schools. Tuition fees are used by schools to bridge that funding gap, allowing them to cover their ongoing running costs. The vast majority of these costs is comprised of the salaries of teachers and support staff, as well as classroom resources and infrastructure. A small portion of the tuition fee is used to fund the purchase of land for new and existing schools and to provide accommodation for teaching staff in regional and remote areas.

The 2023 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. This discount equates to a 15% fee reduction for each child in a family with two students enrolled, 30% for three students and no additional tuition fee for four or more students.

Please note that the figures in the schedule cover tuition fees only. In addition to the tuition fee, our schools and colleges also charge various levies to cover the cost of specific initiatives or needs within each school or college community. As these costs vary from school to school, these levies are set individually by the schools.

I appreciate that some families may face financial hardship in meeting fees and levies. It is important that families who want to provide a 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. It is therefore equally important that those families who can afford to pay their fees do so, so that – as a supportive community – we can continue to help those in genuine need and reach out to the disadvantaged.

Once again next year, we will continue to provide tuition fee discounts of 70% for eligible parents/carers who hold a means-tested Australian Government Concession Card (pensioner or health care) and a 10% discount for students attending identified our more remote 'country' schools.

Families without an eligible Concession Card who are experiencing genuine financial hardship in paying fees should continue to apply for special consideration by speaking with their school Principal or Parish Priest who will treat the situation with understanding, sensitivity, and confidentiality. Our philosophy and mission mean that no child will be denied a Catholic Education because of a parent's inability to pay the full amount of school fees.

Thank you for your continuing commitment to Catholic Education. We are proud of the quality of education provided in our schools and very much appreciate all of the parental support we receive, both through payment of tuition fees and levies and so many other forms of generous assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Bill Dixon
Executive Director
Catholic Education – Diocese of Cairns

