

School Funding is not Sector Blind

The public release of Senate estimates data on the incomes of parents who choose a non-government school for their child dispels the myth that the Australian Government's Schooling Resource Standard funding model is 'sector blind', with only families in non-government schools having their incomes monitored by government.

"This new data on median family incomes in non-government schools highlights how schools are treated differently based on their sector. Only non-government schools have their funding determined by family incomes" said Victorian Catholic Education Authority (VCEA) Acting Chief Executive Officer Mr Bruce Phillips.

"Means testing for school funding, which is based on matching parent names and addresses with income tax returns, is done for almost every non-government school, including low-fee schools, while government schools, even in the wealthiest parts of the country, are exempt.

"Hardworking families that choose a Catholic education for their child make an incredible contribution to the Victorian education system through both the schools fees and the taxes that they pay, while at the same time their children receive significantly less government funding compared to government schools," he said.

According to new estimates from the Productivity Commission, in 2021-22 students in government schools in Victoria received \$21,824 per student in public funding support, while students in non-government schools only received \$13,098 per student – a difference of \$8,726 per student.

From these estimates, parents choosing to send their child to a non-government school in Victoria saved taxpayers \$3.2 billion in 2021-22.

The Catholic school sector in Victoria educates 213,000 students and has 28,000 teachers and staff across its more than 500 early learning and school communities.

ENDS

Media contact Scott Cresswell 0433 099 044