



Allan Labor Government punishes Catholic school families

The Allan Labor Government is punishing hardworking families for choosing a Catholic school for their child, by excluding the vast majority of them from the \$400 School Savings Bonus.

The Victorian Catholic Education Authority calls on the Victorian Government to treat all Victorians fairly and consistently in deciding which school families receive financial support for cost-of-living pressures.

'Families in Catholic schools are feeling cost-of-living pressures too, yet the Allan Government clearly believes they are not worthy of financial support, solely because they have chosen a Catholic education for their children', said Acting CEO Bruce Phillips.

'This decision is discriminatory and unfair; it punishes 130,000 families in Catholic schools who will not get the support available to every single family in a government school.

'We are calling for equality. We believe the payment should apply to all students or should be means tested for all students. It should not be based on which school you attend.

'It is the most divisive and discriminatory government education policy in recent history.

'There are tens of thousands of parents in Victoria's most economically disadvantaged suburbs who are wondering why the Victorian Government is refusing to help them with their cost-of-living pressures, while handing out money indiscriminately in Melbourne's wealthiest suburbs.

Under the announced policy, parents with a child in a government school in Canterbury, which has a median house price of \$3.49 million, will receive \$400 per child, while over 70 per cent of Catholic school families in Melton, which has a median house price of \$500,000, will miss out solely because their child attends Catholic school.

Case studies highlighting the inequity of this policy are attached.

Mr Phillips said that 'we will be seeking to meet with the government urgently, to better understand why they are treating families in Catholic schools like second-class citizens.

'Our principals and families will no doubt be asking similar questions of their local MPs,' he said.

There are 215,000 students attending 496 Catholic schools in Victoria. This represents 1 in 5 Victorian students.

The Victorian Catholic Education Authority is the peak body for Catholic school education in Victoria.

ENDS

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Attached - Case Studies

Case studies

Type	Government	Government	Catholic	Catholic	Catholic	Catholic
School	Canterbury Primary School	Auburn High School	St Mary's School	Resurrection School	St Peter the Apostle	St Francis Catholic College
Suburb	Canterbury	Hawthorn East	Robinvale	Kings Park	Hoppers Crossing	Melton
ICSEA	1197	1137	965	970	980	1017
Families in top 25% of advantage	80	58	4	6	2	13
Families in bottom 25% of advantage	1	4	48	48	40	30
Median house price (suburb) (2022)	\$3.49 million	\$2.52 million	\$315,000	\$630,000	\$650,000	\$500,000
Median annual family income (suburb) (2021)	\$186,800	\$168,600	\$76,300	\$68,700	\$93,200	\$67,750
School families receiving payment (%)	100%	100%	13%	32%	20%	23%