Choice and Affordability Fund Annual Report 2020

catholic education commission of victoria ltd
ACN 119 459 853

Executive Summary

Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) welcomed the opportunity to receive the Choice and Affordability Fund (CAF) to assist in fairer funding for standalone primary schools, providing for parental choice in specialist school settings and the transitioning of secondary schools to the new Schooling Resource Standard. The CAF funding has been allocated based on the priorities identified in the CAF agreement with the Australian government.

Progress against your agreement

The CAF has been allocated to the three priority objectives as per the CECV CAF agreement. The priorities addressed included:

- Special and special assistance schools – choice and affordability
- Primary schools – choice and affordability
- Secondary schools – transition assistance

The distribution of funding

The full allocation of the CAF has been distributed to schools as outlined in the CAF agreement. There has been no centralised spending from the CAF. Details are included in *Attachment A – CAF Distribution Report.*

NGRB Expenditure Profile

The CECV expenditure profile for the CAF is provided below. The key change from the original profile submitted in the agreement is the deferral of expenditure from interest earned in 2020 which will be spent in 2021.

	2020 $	2021 $	2022 $	2023 $	2024 $	2025 $	2026 $	2027 $	2028 $	2029 $
Estimated expenditure	15,481,119	16,687,211	17,185,990	17,701,572	18,232,618	18,779,596	19,342,984	19,923,274	20,520,972	21,136,602

Interest earned

	2020 $
Interest earned	$1,783

Activity Report

There were a total of 109 schools that were allocated funding from the CAF in 2020. This included:

- 93 schools for choice and affordability of primary schools
- 4 schools for choice and affordability of special and special assistance schools
- 12 schools for secondary schools transition assistance

Each of these initiatives have achieved the goals outlined in the CAF agreement.

Special and special assistance schools – choice and affordability

CECV allocated CAF funding to special and special assistance schools to allow greater choice to parents of children who would benefit from special or special assistance education. Funding was allocated equal to the Commonwealth share of their Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) being 80% of their SRS. The allocation for special and special assistance schools was higher than estimated due to increased enrolments which were originally funded at a lower CECV system transition rate.

This funding has enabled special and special assistance to manage their costs and provide a no cost education option for students with special needs.

Primary schools – choice and affordability

CECV has allocated CAF funding towards Catholic primary schools to support parental choice and opportunity to provide primary school students with an affordable Catholic school education. The allocation funded schools based on an adjusted capacity to contribute, reflecting realistic fee levels. The allocation was calculated based on a per capita amount for schools over designated capacity to contribute scores. This has enabled schools to manage their fee structures to provide low cost education alternatives to parents.

Secondary schools – transition assistance

CECV allocated CAF funding to secondary schools that are current funded more than 80% of the SRS and introducing year on year decrease on funding due to increased capacity to contribute scores due to the new direct measure of income. This has ensured that the most affected schools are able to transition to their new funding levels in a staged and planned manner.

Summary of outcomes

Priority[1]	Activities/Initiatives	Budgeted[2]	Spent[3]	Description of outcome against targeted priority
Priority as per your agreement/work plan	**Activities and initiatives as per your agreement/work plan**	**Expenditure on the activity managed centrally by the NGRB and funding distributed to schools.**		**Please provide a description of outcomes achieved against the targeted priorities and indicators of success in your agreement**
Special and special assistance schools – choice and affordability	CECV will use CAF funding to provide additional funding to special and special assistance schools. Providing this funding for these schools will allow greater choice to parents of children who would benefit from special or special assistance education	Centralised $0	Centralised $0	Due to increased enrolments, the allocation of CAF for special schools was increased to ensure choice and affordability for children with high needs and support. This was attributed to the following schools: • Mackillop Specialist School: enrolments increased by 44% (87 in 2019 to 126 in 2020) • St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre: enrolments increased by 20% (384 in 2019 to 459 in 2020) The CAF funding achieved its priority of ensuring that parents of special school students would have greater choice in accessing a Catholic special or special assistance education facility.
		Distributed $4,910,000	Distributed $6,803,077	
Primary schools – choice and affordability	CECV will allocate funding towards Catholic primary schools to support parental choice and opportunity to provide primary school students with an affordable education.	Centralised $0	Centralised $0	CECV allocated CAF funding to stand alone schools to address the limitations of the current capacity to contribute settings in the *Australian Education Act 2013*. Funding was allocated based on an adjusted CECV capacity to contribute that allows schools to provide parental choice and reflective of realistic fees that can be charged for these schools.
		Distributed $5,285,560	Distributed $4,414,854	
Secondary schools – transition assistance	CECV is supporting secondary schools transition towards 80% of the Schooling Resource Standard by 2029.	Centralised $0	Centralised $0	CECV allocated funding from the CAF to assist secondary schools transition to the new direct measure of income score used to determine capacity to contribute. These were allocated to schools with the largest transition amounts with this funding expected to reduce over subsequent years.
		Distributed $5,285,560	Distributed $4,263,188	
Administrative costs[4]		$0	$0	
TOTAL		**$15,481,119**	**$15,481,119**	