

Dear Parents,

Some of you may have read or heard that the long awaited Gonski Report, which was a ***Review into Funding for Schooling***, was released on Monday 20 February 2012. Below is a summary of the National Catholic Education Commission's response to this report.

The release of the Gonski *Review into Funding for Schooling* on 20<sup>th</sup> February represents the first step in the Australian Government's plan to introduce a new funding system for all Australian schools from 2014.

There is no doubt that the review is significant and comprehensive, but it provides only a theoretical framework for a new funding model—key questions remain unanswered.

Substantial analysis needs to be done to test the model and recommendations before a sound assessment can be made of what this means for our schools.

The government has announced a consultation phase, including analysis and testing of the proposed model, to commence immediately. This work will be used to help define a concrete funding model.

The government also acknowledged in their response to the review that families face financial pressures and do not wish to see school fees rise beyond their reach.

The National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) will be working hard during the consultation phase to ensure we do not end up with a model that has the potential to put pressure on school fees.

School funding reform of the magnitude suggested by the Gonski review cannot occur without adequate funding.

The NCEC strongly backs the review's call for an additional \$5 billion in funding for all schools—this represents less than one half of 1% of Australia's gross domestic product (GDP)—and has called on governments to commit to increased funding sooner rather than later.

There's a lot of work to be done over the coming months. The NCEC will be actively working for the interests of our school communities and will keep communities updated throughout the consultation phase.

**Further information:**

- A full copy of the Gonski Report can be accessed from the *Your School Our Future* website [www.schoolfunding.gov.au](http://www.schoolfunding.gov.au)
- We also invite you to visit [www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au](http://www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au)

Thanking you,  
Sandro Coniglio  
Principal