

private schools as my perceptions is sharpened by this statement:

Our students deserve the same resources as the students in a nearby government school, ACT government schools have been promised a funding rise of 145% over ten years.

Seems less incentive to pay extra \$ for private education if I can send my child to a better resourced public school. I am from a public school so have no issue with this approach. However at scale (if others do the same), this could backfire for your policy. I wonder if you have considered this? This is the question I am most interested in hearing. Please remove all other pre formatted / generic reply material (please).

Please let me know if you would like to visit my Son's school to discuss this.

I understand our country is facing a difficult 100 years. I agree with Shorten's statement tonight that we should invest in our schools. I don't understand curriculum design, it must be complex stuff. However I sense that STEM will only go so far.

Consider teaching children lean business validation methods. There is no point having a country of children who can code up useless products. They need to learn how to add value by being encouraged to fail quickly when solving problems. I believe the whole idea of bankruptcy is to allow ppl to fail as they try to create value. I may be wrong about that but you get the point. I am not talking about business studies. I took a class, it was ok. It taught me nothing about running a business. I am [talking about this](#).

Combining scientific method with business development may go some of the way towards solving problems for future generations. Most people are probably unaware exactly how shaky things will become for us, if you factor in automation. I am hopeful you are not.

Also consider teaching children how to follow their passions. And to dream.

Boost school funding, don't cut it.

Thank you for your service to the public good, good luck with it all it's a tough gig.

Regards,



Hancock, Carly

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 10:50 PM
To: minister@education.gov.au; senator.seselja@aph.gov.au; BERRY
Subject: Fwd: Funding cuts to Catholic schools, and an alternative

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Funding cuts to Catholic schools, and an alternative

Date: Thu, 11 May 2017 22:46:00 +1000

From: [REDACTED]

To: minister@education.gov.au, senator.seselja@aph.gov.au, berry@act.gov.au

Hi

I am not pleased with cuts to Catholic schools. Private education takes pressure off the government system.

I am interested to know your reasoning behind these cuts.

My Child's school tells me:

"The Minister has confirmed funding for Catholic schools will be cut from \$109 million today to \$107 million in 2027 with no increase for salaries and other schools costs which are expected to rise by more than \$50 million over the period."

If your expectation is that parents will pay more fees to cover this, I am very likely to take my child out of private schools as my perceptions is sharpened by this statement:

Our students deserve the same resources as the students in a nearby government school, ACT government schools have been promised a funding rise of 145% over ten years.

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Regards,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

Hancock, Carly

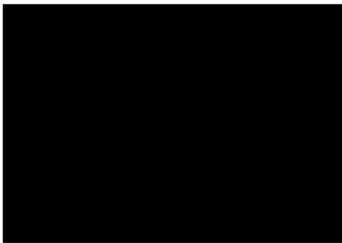
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 11:00 PM
To: minister@education.gov.au; senator.seselja@aph.gov.au; BERRY
Subject: Re: Fwd: Funding cuts to Catholic schools, and an alternative

Hi

Here is another way to generate some extra \$\$ (perhaps, I am not expert).

<http://theconversation.com/senate-inquiry-told-zero-tax-or-royalties-paid-on-australias-biggest-new-gas-projects-77479>

On 11/05/17 22:50, [REDACTED] wrote:



----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:Funding cuts to Catholic schools, and an alternative
Date:Thu, 11 May 2017 22:46:00 +1000
From: [REDACTED]
To:minister@education.gov.au, senator.seselja@aph.gov.au, berry@act.gov.au

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Thank you for your service to the public good, good luck with it all it's a tough gig.

Regards,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the sender's name and contact information.

Hancock, Carly

From: Abbott, Janet on behalf of Education DLO
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 4:55 PM
To: Whybrow, Mark
Cc: Hancock, Carly; Whitten, Meredith; Gstrein, Kylie; EDUMCR
Subject: request: min17/406 : Education Policy Announcements [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Afternoon

Title/Question	Catholic School Funding [REDACTED]
Action	Response
Responsibility	SF
Response type	Letter
TRIM	Min17/406
Date due	22/5/17 – DD-g 29/5/17 MO
Clearance	DD-G
Comment	Please contact Janet Abbott at EDUDLO@act.gov.au if you have questions.

Kind regards

Janet Abbott
 Education Directorate Liaison Officer
 Phone + 61 2 6205 0291 | Email: EduDLO@act.gov.au
 Office of Yvette Berry MLA
 Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work and pay my respects to elders past, present and future.

From: BERRY
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 9:39 AM
To: Abbott, Janet
Cc: Ceramidas, Joshua
Subject: min17/406 : Education Policy Announcements

Please see below/attached correspondence related to Education. For appropriate action/response.

Cheers,
 Tom

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 7:52 AM
To: minister@education.gov.au; senator.seselja@aph.gov.au; BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>
Subject: Education Policy Announcements

It is with great disappointment to see the Federal governments proposed education policy changes announced in the recent budget.

My daughter attends Rosary Primary School, a school which [REDACTED] taught at [REDACTED] and which I also attended. The school is a centre of excellence with superb teaching and support staff, something I cannot get at my local government school in the Gungahlin area. Both Rosary and my proposed secondary college will be affected by the governments funding charges. The education website calculator has put the Government per student funding decrease at Rosary to be an estimated \$519,600 between 2017 and 2027, Merici at \$1M and Daramarlan College \$14M!!! How is it Canberra Girls Grammar gets an increase of \$8M! \$3M is not enough to solve the issues at my local government primary school either. Where on earth do you think this sort of shortfall in money in Catholic schools is going to be found? Did you all just wake up one day and decide that we will pick on the Catholics for a change? **Maybe it's just the Coalitions policy of holding back the young and the future of Australian kids.** It certainly seems I are being penalised because of my preference for my child to have a Catholic education and that there is some bizarre perception that somehow I can afford to pay more.

I am a single parent and have never sought or received government or spousal support. I work extremely hard to ensure my child has the best education possible as I believe a good education is key to a successful future regardless of your social economic background. Simply, I just want my daughter to also have a quality catholic education and you are making it impossible to do so.

Perhaps you should consider looking internally at the waste and nonsense that goes on with your own departments before you start affecting Australian families who want a decent education for their children. To date your policies have impacted my superannuation, medicare, private health insurance, schooling/university costs and I cannot wait to see what the bank pass on to me as well. You are so out of touch with reality it's unbelievable.

I am so mad at this government and its inane policies. I have always been a life-long Liberal supporter but I sincerely regret voting for you guys and will do so no longer.

Hancock, Carly

From: Abbott, Janet on behalf of Education DLO
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 4:58 PM
To: Whybrow, Mark
Cc: Hancock, Carly; Whitten, Meredith; Gstrein, Kylie; EDUMCR
Subject: request: min17/407 Catholic school funding [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

AFTERNOON

Title/Question	Cahtolic School Funding [REDACTED]
Action	Response
Responsibility	SF
Response type	Letter
TRIM	Min17/407
Date due	22/5/17 – DDG 29/5/17 – MO
Clearance	DD-G
Comment	Please contact Janet Abbott at EDUDLO@act.gov.au if you have questions.

Kind regards

Janet Abbott
 Education Directorate Liaison Officer
 Phone + 61 2 6205 0291 | Email: EduDLO@act.gov.au
 Office of Yvette Berry MLA
 Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development



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From: BERRY
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 9:39 AM
To: Abbott, Janet
Cc: Ceramidas, Joshua
Subject: min17/407 Catholic school funding

Please see below/attached correspondence related to Education. For appropriate action/response.

Cheers,
 Tom

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 8:58 AM
To: BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>
Subject: Catholic school funding

Hello Minister,

I am a stay at home mother with 3 children going to Catholic schools in Canberra. My husband is a public servant who hasn't had a pay rise in years and, like all families, we struggle to pay the bills. We choose to send our children to Catholic schools because that is our FAITH. They install the religious subjects and morals that we desire for them growing up. We have to SACRIFICE to send them there.. no big holidays, no new furniture, no going out for dinner. And now the government want to cease funding, essentially increasing our fees. Consider what that would do for families like ours, and most are like ours. This is a direct attack on our Faith and our choices and this is wrong. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to understand a parents point of view.

Hancock, Carly

From: Abbott, Janet on behalf of Education DLO
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 5:08 PM
To: Whybrow, Mark
Cc: Whitten, Meredith; Hancock, Carly; Gstrein, Kylie; EDUMCR
Subject: REQUEST: MIN17/408: Cuts to catholic Education in Canberra [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good afternoon

Title/Question	Catholic Education Fund [REDACTED]
Action	Response
Responsibility	SF
Response type	Letter
TRIM	MIN17/408
Date due	22/5/17 - DDG 29/5/17 - MO
Clearance	DD-G
Comment	Please contact Janet Abbott at EDUDLO@act.gov.au if you have questions.

Kind regards

Janet Abbott
 Education Directorate Liaison Officer
 Phone + 61 2 6205 0291 | Email: EduDLO@act.gov.au
 Office of Yvette Berry MLA
 Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work and pay my respects to elders past, present and future.

From: BERRY
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 4:18 PM
To: Abbott, Janet
Cc: Ceramidas, Joshua
Subject: MIN17/408: Cuts to catholic Education in Canberra

Please see below/attached correspondence related to Education. For appropriate action/response.

Cheers,
 Tom

From: Susan Dow [<mailto:susandow@gantas.com.au>]
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 2:45 PM
To: BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>
Subject: Cuts to catholic Education in Canberra

Dear Ms Berry

I am writing to express my disappointment with the decision to cut funding to the Catholic Education system in Canberra.

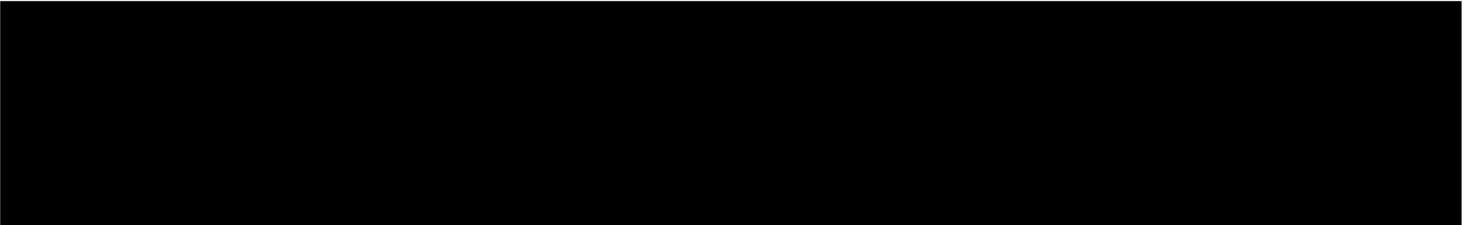
My 5 year old son currently goes to Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School in Amaroo. We made this decision to send our son here as there were very few options for us in the Public School system. Our catchment area is the mega school in Harrison (many suburbs from Forde), even though there is a public school in Bonner only one suburb away. I want my son to go to a dedicated Primary School which we do not have an option for in the Gungahlin area, as the majority of schools are mega schools catering for primary and secondary schools.

With the change in funding there will obviously be increases in our school fees and we may have to look at the public system again, but do not believe that the public system gives us any positive options to do this.

Our family is happy to pay school fees to allow us to attend Good Shepherd, but will not be able to afford high increases. Which will then put extra pressure on the very limited public school system in the Gungahlin area.

I urge you to reassess these funding cuts so that all families in the Gungahlin area can have a choice of where to send their children that is reasonably priced and meets their location and educational needs.

Kind regards



Hancock, Carly

From: Abbott, Janet on behalf of Education DLO
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 5:10 PM
To: Whybrow, Mark
Subject: RE: REQUEST: MIN17/404 : Concerns about proposed funding cuts to ACT Catholic Schools [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thank you Mark. That is why I flagged the volume coming earlier today.

Happy for a standard group response lightly tweaked for each.

Janet Abbott | Education Directorate Liaison Officer

P 02 6205 0291 | Email: EduDLO@act.gov.au

Office of Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development

From: Whybrow, Mark
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 4:50 PM
To: Education DLO
Subject: RE: REQUEST: MIN17/404 : Concerns about proposed funding cuts to ACT Catholic Schools [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Janet

We will need to discuss a sensible broader response and group all these type of queries.

Cheers

Mark

Mark Whybrow | Chief Finance Officer | <mailto:mark.whybrow@act.gov.au>

Phone: 02 62052685 | Fax: 02 62055472 [REDACTED]

Education | ACT Government |

Level 1 Annex, 220 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 |

<http://www.det.act.au>

From: Abbott, Janet **On Behalf Of** Education DLO
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 4:48 PM
To: Whybrow, Mark
Cc: Hancock, Carly; Whitten, Meredith; Gstrein, Kylie; EDUMCR
Subject: REQUEST: MIN17/404 : Concerns about proposed funding cuts to ACT Catholic Schools [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

AFTERNOON

Title/Question	Catholic School funding [REDACTED]
Action	Response
Responsibility	SF
Response type	Letter
TRIM	Min17/404
Date due	22/45/17 – DD-G 29/5/17 – MO
Clearance	DD-G
Comment	Please contact Janet Abbott at EDUDLO@act.gov.au if you have questions.

Kind regards

Janet Abbott
Education Directorate Liaison Officer
Phone + 61 2 6205 0291 | Email: EduDLO@act.gov.au
Office of Yvette Berry MLA
Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work and pay my respects to elders past, present and future.

From: BERRY
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 9:35 AM
To: Abbott, Janet
Cc: Ceramidas, Joshua
Subject: MIN17/404 : Concerns about proposed funding cuts to ACT Catholic Schools

Please see below/attached correspondence related to Education. For appropriate action/response.

Cheers,
Tom

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 May 2017 9:43 PM
To: BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>
Subject: Concerns about proposed funding cuts to ACT Catholic Schools

Ms Yvette Berry
ACT Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development
email: berry@act.gov.au

Dear Minister

This letter is to ask for your commitment to advocate to reverse the Commonwealth Government's proposed cuts to Catholic schools in the ACT, with a particular focus on St Thomas More's Primary School in Campbell. We are writing to you because we have [REDACTED] young children at St Thomas More's [REDACTED] [REDACTED] - and we are greatly worried about how the school can continue to deliver a quality, values-based education to our children if the funding cuts are not reversed.

Urgent changes to the announced funding proposals are necessary to prevent the major, unfair anomaly of children and teachers at St Thomas More's primary having their funding cut as part of the cuts to ACT Catholic schools' funding from \$109m in 2017 to \$107m in 2027 - while Australian Government funding to ACT government schools - like Campbell Primary, which shares an oval with St Thomas More's - will rise by 145% over this same period.

The basis for the proposed cuts to St Thomas More's primary is a comparison between the socioeconomic status of Campbell with the area around the Shore elite private school in Sydney. The relevant comparison should, instead, be with the primary school across the oval from St Thomas More's - Campbell Primary. The elite Shore school bears no similarity with the simple facilities and austere financial situation of St Thomas More's primary. The only similarity may be the dedication and vocational commitment of St Thomas More's teaching staff - who are exceptional.

We understand that, while ACT Catholic school funding between 2017 and 2027 will fall from \$109m to \$107m, salaries and other costs are expected to rise by more than \$50m. Without a reversal of the proposed funding cuts and an equitable funding allocation to government and Catholic schools in the same catchment areas, we do not see how the talented teachers at St Thomas More's and other Catholic schools can be retained and paid at rates that will be competitive with the government schools.

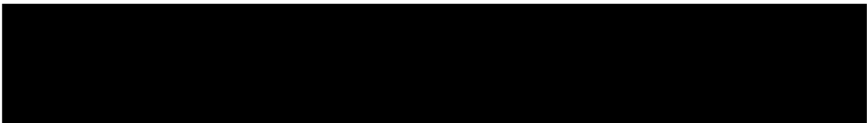
Reversing the proposed cuts will prevent a likely flight of children to already under pressure government schools - and a resulting decline in the quality of the education they can provide to ACT children. Any increase in the number of children leaving the Catholic system to the government system will increase the cost to taxpayers as it costs much more for the Commonwealth and State/Territory governments to educate a child in the government sector than it does when they are educated in the Catholic systemic school system.

St Thomas More's primary is a small school with basic facilities. It does, however, have gifted and dedicated teachers who have a deep understanding of each child and how each child learns most effectively. Its school community is close and supportive. You can feel this when you walk into the school. The Commonwealth Government's proposed funding cuts are risking this school's future right now. Already, at this critical period for enrolments for next year, the numbers of parents visiting and enquiring at the school are greatly reduced - because of the fear and uncertainty created by the announced cuts.

We seek your commitment to advocate for a reversal of this decision by the Commonwealth government and should there still remain a shortfall in the ACT, that you will support additional funding for the ACT Catholic systemic school system. If funding cannot be retained in the ACT Catholic school system, the implications for students in Catholic and government schools could be disastrous for children and their families.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Yours sincerely,





Documents 128-139 are exempt
under section 36 of the
Freedom of Information Act 1989

This document is exempt
under section 34 and 36 of the
Freedom of Information Act 1989

This document is exempt
under section 36 of the
Freedom of Information Act 1989

Hancock, Carly

From: Abbott, Janet on behalf of Education DLO
Sent: Tuesday, 16 May 2017 11:46 AM
To: Whybrow, Mark
Cc: Hancock, Carly; Whitten, Meredith; Gstrein, Kylie; EDUMCR; Jones, ChrisD
Subject: request: min17/410: Gonski 2.0 & current funding proposal for Australian Catholic schools [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good afternoon

Title/Question	LETTER Catholic and Independent school funding [REDACTED]
Action	Response
Responsibility	SF
Response type	Letter
TRIM	Min17/410
Date due	24/5/17 – DD-g 31/5/17 - MO
Clearance	DD-G
Comment	Please contact Janet Abbott at EDUDLO@act.gov.au if you have questions.

Kind regards

Janet Abbott
 Education Directorate Liaison Officer
 Phone + 61 2 6205 0291 | Email: EduDLO@act.gov.au
 Office of Yvette Berry MLA
 Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work and pay my respects to elders past, present and future.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2017 3:02 PM
To: minister@education.gov.au; senator.seselja@aph.gov.au; BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>
Subject: Gonski 2.0 & current funding proposal for Australian Catholic schools

Senator the Hon. Simon Birmingham and Senator the Hon. Zed Seselja,

Much has been said about the fairness of the current funding proposal for Australian schools. However, there are serious inequities evident between government, Catholic and independent school sectors:

- 29 Catholic systemic schools in the ACT will be affected by the cuts
- 3 independent Catholic schools will be affected by the funding shortfall
- Within a ten year period, Catholic systemic school funding will fall from the current level of \$109m to \$107m despite current projections indicating costs are expected to rise by \$50m within the same time period
- Within the same ten year period, federal funding to ACT government schools is set to rise by \$145% although the level of ACT government funding to Catholic schools is one of the lowest in the country.

The ACT Enrolment Census August 2015 indicates thousands will be affected in ACT Archdiocesan schools:

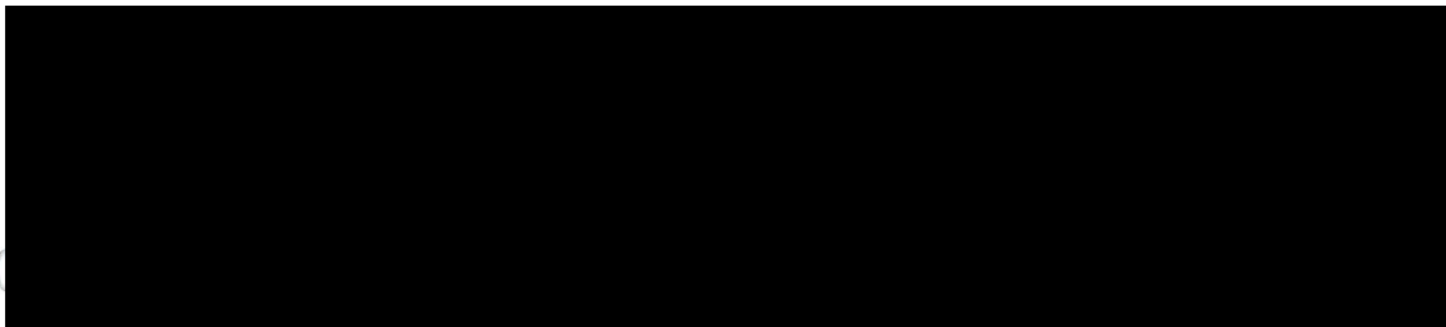
- 14 429 students
- 552 Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander students
- 734 students with disabilities
- 873 lay teachers
- 250 support staff

Why do 14 429 students deserve fewer resources than their counterparts in ACT government schools? Why is there an expectation that parents in Catholic schools can fund the shortfall, despite there being evidence to the contrary? Why should the tax dollars of these parents be used to fund increases to government school students while their own children bear the brunt of persistent financial cutbacks over the next decade?

What will happen to 1123 teachers and support staff and their families if estimated wage growth is projected to be \$40m but federal funding does not keep up with costs of rising inflation and reduces financial support altogether?

It is grossly inaccurate to state that this proposal is fair and it is playing Russian roulette with the lives of thousands of people. The effects of education are lifelong and this decision will impact our youngest generation. This was not the intent of the original Gonski review during the Gillard government and we ask that urgent steps to be taken to address the serious inequities being proposed by the current government.

Regards,



Hancock, Carly

From: Abbott, Janet on behalf of Education DLO
Sent: Tuesday, 16 May 2017 11:51 AM
To: Whybrow, Mark
Cc: Hancock, Carly; Whitten, Meredith; Gstrein, Kylie; EDUMCR; Jones, ChrisD
Subject: REQUEST MIN17/411 Funding for Catholic Schools [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good afternoon

Title/Question	Letter catholic school funding [REDACTED]
Action	Response
Responsibility	SF
Response type	Letter
TRIM	Min17/411
Date due	24/5/17 – DD-G 31/5/17 – MO
Clearance	DD-G/Director
Comment	Please contact Janet Abbott at EDUDLO@act.gov.au if you have questions.

Kind regards

Janet Abbott
 Education Directorate Liaison Officer
 Phone + 61 2 6205 0291 | Email: EduDLO@act.gov.au
 Office of Yvette Berry MLA
 Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work and pay my respects to elders past, present and future.

From: BERRY
Sent: Monday, 15 May 2017 10:15 AM
To: Abbott, Janet
Cc: Ceramidas, Joshua
Subject: MIN17/411 Funding for Catholic Schools

Please see below/attached correspondence related to Education. For appropriate action/response.

Cheers,
 Tom

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 May 2017 3:59 PM
To: minister@education.gov.au; senator.seselja@aph.gov.au; BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>
Subject: Funding for Catholic Schools

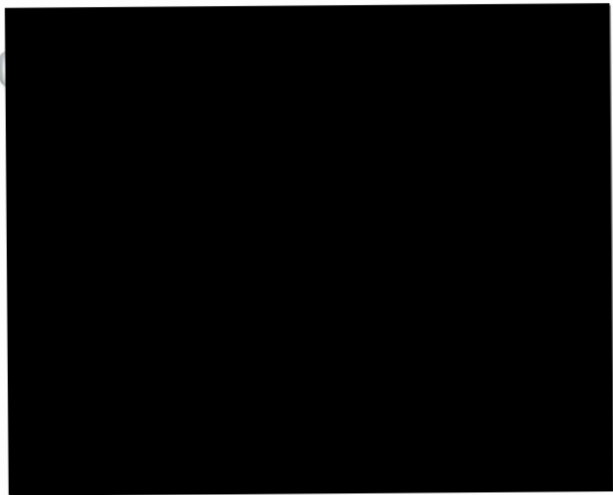
Ministers and Senator, I am gravely concerned about the pending reductions in funding for Catholic schools. Catholics do not seek special treatment, rather a fair allocation alongside state/territory schools and independent private schools. To target Catholic schools with outright reductions in funding, and significant

reductions per capita attendance, while government schools maintain funding levels and account for rising costs in the out-years, will cause a significant rise in fees that families pay at Catholic schools. This rise in fees will cause these families significant further financial stress, and will likely cause some families to withdraw their children from catholic education and into government schools.

The most optimistic projections of the recently declared budget ramifications for catholic school funding are quite dire. For many decades, Catholic education has enabled Catholic parents to follow their faith by providing their children with a faith based education - at a fair cost above the free provision of government schooling. And indeed, the catholic education system across the nation has relieved the overall burden on the government schooling system, and its overall cost to the taxpayer.

I ask that you promote reconsideration of the education funding arising from the recent federal budget amongst your peers in government and parliament. In particular, I ask that the relative funding levels for Catholic schools be re-examined, and a fair allocation be applied, in line with historical principles and trends.

With thanks for your support,



Hancock, Carly

From: Abbott, Janet on behalf of Education DLO
Sent: Tuesday, 16 May 2017 11:57 AM
To: Whybrow, Mark
Cc: Hancock, Carly; Whitten, Meredith; Gstrein, Kylie; EDUMCR; Jones, ChrisD
Subject: REQUEST: MIN17/412 : [teamberry] Aileen L'Aimable left feedback on Contact [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good afternoon

Title/Question	Letter Catholic School funding [REDACTED]
Action	Letter
Responsibility	SF
Response type	Letter
TRIM	MIN17/412
Date due	24/5/17 – DD-G 31/5/17 – MO
Clearance	DD-G
Comment	Please contact Janet Abbott at EDUDLO@act.gov.au if you have questions.

Kind regards

Janet Abbott
 Education Directorate Liaison Officer
 Phone +61 2 6205 0291 | Email: EduDLO@act.gov.au
 Office of Yvette Berry MLA
 Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development



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From: BERRY
Sent: Monday, 15 May 2017 10:15 AM
To: Abbott, Janet
Cc: Ceramidas, Joshua
Subject: MIN17/412 : [REDACTED] left feedback on Contact

Please see below/attached correspondence related to Education. For appropriate action/response.

Cheers,
 Tom

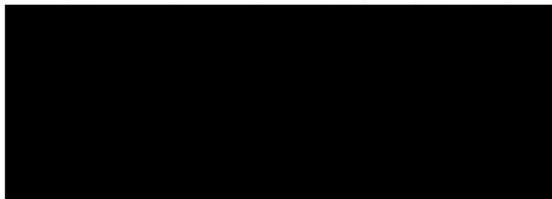
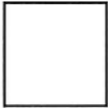
From: NationBuilder [<mailto:notifications@nationbuilder.com>]
Sent: Monday, 15 May 2017 7:44 AM
To: BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>
Subject: [REDACTED]



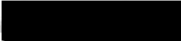
left feedback on [Contact](#)

“Dear Yvette Berry, I am writing to express my concerns regarding the funding cuts recently announced for Catholic schools in the ACT. This will negatively impact our school, St Thomas More’s Primary in Campbell. These cuts will affect the choices and abilities of parents to choose where to send their children to school because these cuts will further disadvantage the most disadvantaged of us. The families who already experience some financial difficulties will be further placed under pressure and their children are the ones who will miss out. It’s horrifying to think that these students could be further disadvantaged by missing their chosen extra-curricular activity. Other families will feel they have no choice but to move their children to a school not of their choosing as their children require additional assistance, which after these cuts are put into place, may no longer be available, or reduced so that the families feel they are disadvantaged by attending a Catholic school. These funding cuts will affect the students, their families and the staff at St Thomas More’s by affecting necessary programmes like the Extension Classes, Learning and Student Support, our schools ability to employ necessary Literacy and Numeracy Coordinators, the Defence Student Transition Aide who assists our high number of Defence students who are already disadvantaged by frequent disruptions to their education due to necessary relocations of their families. Even the families who are able to pay and do not require the additional educational supports will be negatively affected as the children are separated from friends who are forced to attend a different school. I would also like to mention the families who volunteer their time at the school; some of which will need to cease or decrease their volunteer work at the school to insure they can make the short-fall economically in their households. These people are the reason our swimming carnivals go ahead each year. Lastly, as student

numbers drop in Catholic schools they increase in the public system. Public school students are set to receive more funding than their Catholic counterparts, so this is not a saving. Public schools will receive additional funding for the additional students and yes, it is easy to purchase more books, but you cannot make the oval, the library, the carpark or a new school room without disrupting the students and staff of the public schools. The students who receive the additional services like learning support in the public system now, will have to make room for other students with the same or greater needs. No one wins. Thank you for your time.”



Point Person: [Yvette Berry Mla](#)

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Hancock, Carly

From: Abbott, Janet on behalf of Education DLO
Sent: Tuesday, 16 May 2017 12:46 PM
To: Whybrow, Mark
Cc: Hancock, Carly; Whitten, Meredith; Gstrein, Kylie; EDUMCR; Jones, ChrisD
Subject: REQUEST: MIN17/417 : Concern re proposed funding cuts to St Thomas More's School, Campbell [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good afternoon

Title/Question	LETTER Catholic School Funding [REDACTED]
Action	Response
Responsibility	SF
Response type	Letter
TRIM	Min17/417
Date due	24/5/17 – DD-G 31/5/17 – MO
Clearance	DD-G
Comment	Please contact Janet Abbott at EDUDLO@act.gov.au if you have questions.

Kind regards

Janet Abbott
 Education Directorate Liaison Officer
 Phone +61 2 6205 0291 | Email: EduDLO@act.gov.au
 Office of Yvette Berry MLA
 Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work and pay my respects to elders past, present and future.

From: BERRY
Sent: Tuesday, 16 May 2017 9:42 AM
To: Abbott, Janet
Cc: Ceramidas, Joshua
Subject: MIN17/417 : Concern re proposed funding cuts to St Thomas More's School, Campbell

Please see below/attached correspondence related to Education. For appropriate action/response.

Cheers,
 Tom

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 May 2017 8:05 PM
To: BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>
Subject: Concern re proposed funding cuts to St Thomas More's School, Campbell

Dear Ms Berry

This letter is to ask for your advocacy to reverse the Commonwealth Government's proposed cuts to Catholic schools in the ACT, with a particular focus on St Thomas More's Primary School in Campbell. We are writing to you because we have [redacted] young children at St Thomas More's - [redacted] - and we are greatly worried about how the school can continue to deliver a quality, values-based education to our children if the funding cuts are not reversed.

Urgent changes to the announced funding proposals are necessary to prevent the major, unfair anomaly of children and teachers at St Thomas More's primary having their funding cut as part of the cuts to ACT Catholic schools' funding from \$109m in 2017 to \$107m in 2027 - while Australian Government funding to ACT government schools - like Campbell Primary, which shares an oval with St Thomas More's - will rise by 145% over this same period.

The basis for the proposed cuts to St Thomas More's primary is a comparison between the socioeconomic status of Campbell with the area around the Shore elite private school in Sydney. The relevant comparison should, instead, be with the primary school across the oval from St Thomas More's - Campbell Primary. The elite Shore school bears no similarity with the simple facilities and austere financial situation of St Thomas More's primary. The only similarity may be the dedication and vocational commitment of St Thomas More's teaching staff - who are exceptional.

We understand that, while ACT Catholic school funding between 2017 and 2027 will fall from \$109m to \$107m, salaries and other costs are expected to rise by more than \$50m. Without a reversal of the proposed funding cuts and an equitable funding allocation to government and Catholic schools in the same catchment areas, we do not see how the talented teachers at St Thomas More's and other Catholic schools can be retained and paid at rates that will be competitive with the government schools.

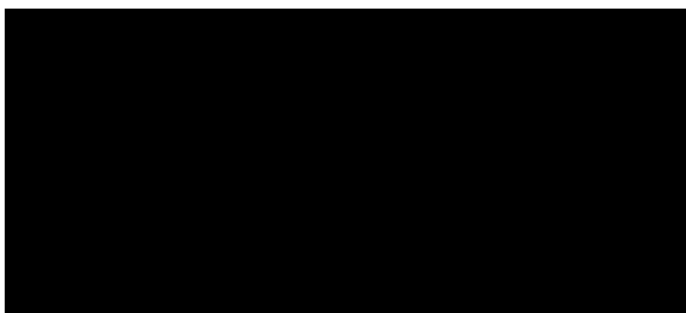
Reversing the proposed cuts will prevent a likely flight of children to already under pressure government schools - and a resulting decline in the quality of the education they can provide to ACT children. Any increase in the number of children leaving the Catholic system to go to the government system will increase the cost to taxpayers as it costs much more for the Commonwealth and State/Territory governments to educate a child in the government sector than it does when they are educated in the Catholic systemic school system.

St Thomas More's primary is a small school with basic facilities. It does, however, have gifted and dedicated teachers who have a deep understanding of each child and how each child learns most effectively. Its school community is close and supportive. You can feel this when you walk into the school. The Commonwealth Government's proposed funding cuts are risking this school's future right now. Already, at this critical period for enrolments for next year, the numbers of parents visiting and enquiring at the school are greatly reduced - because of the fear and uncertainty created by the announced cuts.

This is decision that needs to be reversed urgently.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Yours sincerely,



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Documents 149-154 are exempt
under section 36 of the
Freedom of Information Act 1989

This document is exempt
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Hancock, Carly

From: Vigor, Catriona
Sent: Thursday, 18 May 2017 10:38 AM
To: Whybrow, Mark
Cc: Hall, Elizabeth; Garrido, Jaime; Blount, Wilhelmina
Subject: RE: input to draft briefing on Commonwealth funding for Education in 2017-18 Budget context [DLM=Sensitive]

OK, thanks Mark. Will do.

We'll chop out the latter two tables and I'll look for a copy of the cabinet decision. I don't think I saw a final of the Cab Sub.

Thanks for the advice.

Catriona

From: Whybrow, Mark
Sent: Thursday, 18 May 2017 10:34 AM
To: Vigor, Catriona
Cc: Hall, Elizabeth; Garrido, Jaime; Blount, Wilhelmina
Subject: RE: input to draft briefing on Commonwealth funding for Education in 2017-18 Budget context [DLM=Sensitive]

Catriona

As discussed last night. There has been no change to current Commonwealth estimates for education as the positing has not been agreed through a heads of agreement and is subject to passing of Commonwealth legislation. So see no need to have a stepped change in the ACT budget as it is not included. It is my understanding that the discussion to exclude was made by budget Cabinet on 12 May 2017. Suggest you touch base with Wil and Elizabeth.

It is worth noting the MYEFO referred to Commonwealth education funding as "Students First". The Commonwealth 2017 budget renamed their education funding Quality schools.

Cheers
 Mark

Mark Whybrow | Chief Finance Officer | <mailto:mark.whybrow@act.gov.au>
 Phone: 02 62052685 | Fax: 02 62055472 | [REDACTED]
 Education | ACT Government |
 Level 1 Annex, 220 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 |
<http://www.det.act.au>

From: Vigor, Catriona
Sent: Wednesday, 17 May 2017 6:47 PM
To: Whybrow, Mark
Cc: Hall, Elizabeth; Garrido, Jaime
Subject: input to draft briefing on Commonwealth funding for Education in 2017-18 Budget context [DLM=Sensitive]

Good afternoon Mark

Thanks for agreeing to help update the attached information for the Chief Minister to use as reference material in the context of the 2017-18 Budget.

We'd value suggested refinements to the attached using tracked changes.

As discussed, there are two tables on the second page that your team assisted to develop for briefing at this time last year, although the context was different, as we are not flowing through the Commonwealth published amounts, so thanks for suggestions for change and input by cob next Thursday, 25 May 2017.

I'd also be happy to discuss suggestions, if that's easier for you.

Regards

Catriona

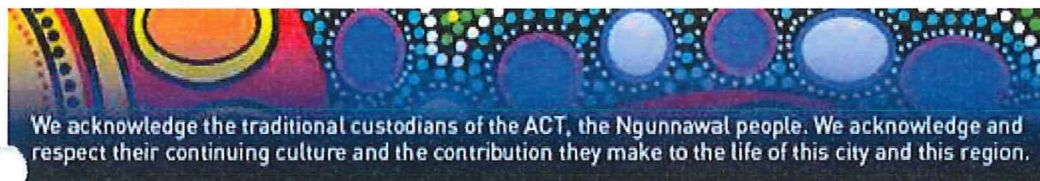
Catriona Vigor | Senior Manager, Health and National Partnerships team
Finance and Budget Division

Phone: 6205 3187 | catriona.vigor@act.gov.au

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | **ACT Government**

Level 1, Canberra Nara Centre | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 |

www.act.gov.au



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Freedom of Information Act 1989

Documents 172-174 are exempt
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Jermyn, Brooke

From: Efthymiades, Deb
Sent: Friday, 26 May 2017 2:30 PM
To: 'COOK, Tony'
Cc: GORDON, Alex; Jermyn, Brooke
Subject: RE: Maintenance of Effort telepresence [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks TC and Alex

ACT participants on 7 June will be:

Myself
Mark Whybrow
Leesa Croke [DCM]
Wilhelmina Blount [Treasury]

We trust that the facility will be booked on our behalf as usual?

We look forward to the conversation.

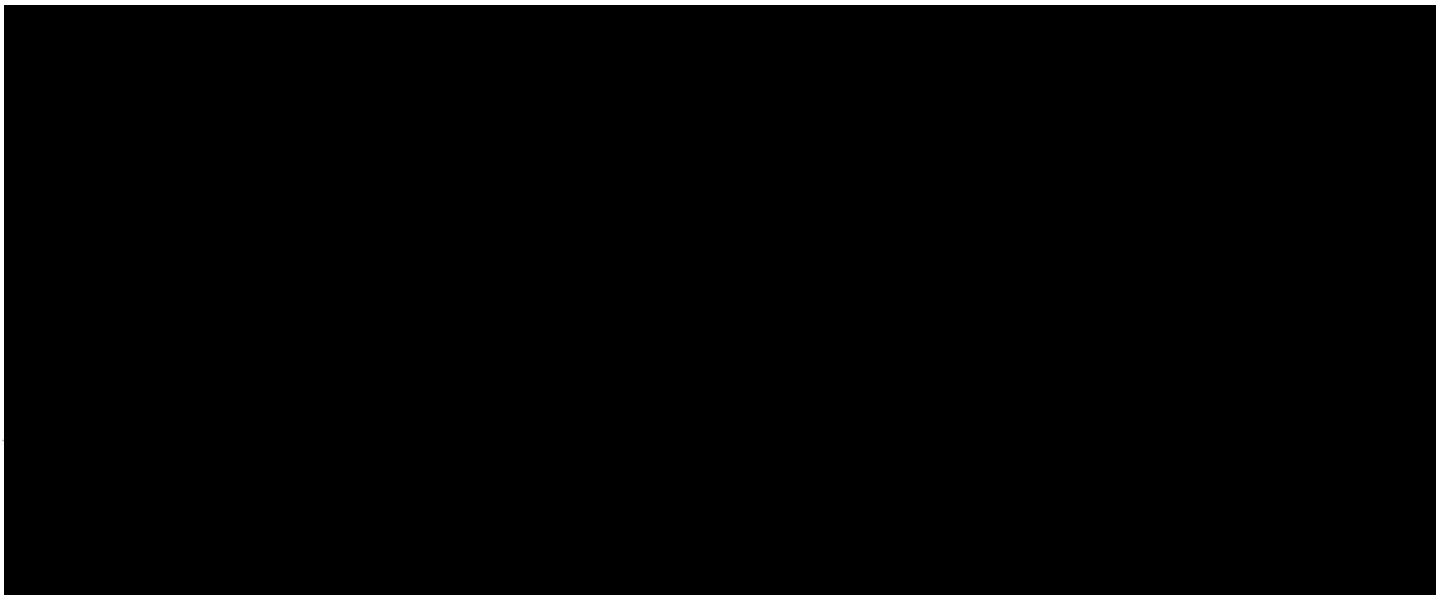
Regards

Deb

Deb Efthymiades | Deputy Director-General
System Policy and Reform
Education | ACT Government
Phone: +61 2 62059172 | [REDACTED]
Email: Deb.Efthymiades@act.gov.au
220 Northbourne Avenue BRADDON ACT | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
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I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters where we live and work, the Ngunnawal people, and pay my respects to elders past, present and future.



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Hancock, Carly

From: Williams, Gareth
Sent: Tuesday, 30 May 2017 12:22 PM
To: Whybrow, Mark; Scanes, Mark
Cc: Evans, Rachel; Summerrell, Jessica; Whitten, Meredith
Subject: MEDIA REQUESTmar: Assistance package for ACT Catholic schools [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED, DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Mark and Mark,

We have received the below media enquiry passed through the Min's Office. Are we aware of any assistance package for ACT Catholic Schools from the Federal Government (see below)?

Kind Regards

Gareth Williams | Senior Media & Communications Officer
Phone: +61 2 6205 4196 | [REDACTED] | Email: gareth.williams@act.gov.au
Media and Communications | Education Directorate | ACT Government
Level 6 220 Northbourne Avenue | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.education.act.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Pinterest](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Google+](#)

From: Dynon, Kaarin
Sent: Tuesday, 30 May 2017 11:39 AM
To: Summerrell, Jessica; Williams, Gareth; Gange, Carly
Subject: Fwd: Assistance package for ACT Catholic schools

Hi! Got this from [REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: May 30, 2017 at 10:06:47 GMT+10
To: Kaarin Dynon <kaarin.dynon@act.gov.au>
Subject: Assistance package for ACT Catholic schools

Hi Kaarin,

As per our chat:

Is the ACT Education Directorate aware of a temporary assistance package for ACT Catholic schools from the federal government?

If so, what does it look like, are a selected number of schools receiving funding from this package or are all the Catholic schools across the ACT?

Has there been any communications with the directorate from the feds?

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

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