

Dear Parents and Carers

2017 Tuition Fees

The annual review has occurred to determine the level of school tuition fees in 2017. We are delighted to be able to advise that tuition fees for our primary schools in the Cairns Diocese in 2017 will be at 2016 levels and that secondary college fees will rise by 2.5% - a much smaller increase than previous years.

The decision to raise fees is not taken for granted or made without careful consideration of the resource needs of schools balanced against the capacity of families to contribute.

For Catholic schools, the need to charge tuition fees and levies arises from the lower funding that is provided by governments for students in non-government schools. Tuition fees are used by schools to meet ongoing expenditure of the school. A minor portion of the tuition fee is used to fund the purchase of land for existing and new schools and accommodation for teaching staff.

The 2017 tuition fee schedule for families with children attending primary and secondary schools in the Diocese of Cairns is attached. Sibling discounts will continue to be offered to families with more than one child enrolled in one or more Catholic schools in the Cairns Diocese, however the level of discount has been adjusted downwards for primary students to achieve consistency of sibling discounts across primary and secondary schools. The discount for two students is now 15% and 30% for three students.

The 2017 tuition fee increase applies to tuition fees only. Schools and colleges charge various levies to support specific initiatives or needs within each school or college community. As these costs vary from school to school, these levies are set individually by the schools.

I appreciate that some families may face financial hardship in meeting fees and levies. It is important that families who want to access Catholic Education for their children are not excluded because they do not have the means to pay fees. It is our policy and practice to assist any family in this situation.

This year a fees discount was trialled for eligible parents/carers with a means-tested Australian Government Health Card or Pensioner Concession Card to receive a 70% rebate on tuition fees (an information sheet is attached). I am pleased to advise that this discount will continue to be offered in 2017.

Families without an eligible concession card who are experiencing genuine financial hardship in paying fees should continue to apply for special consideration by speaking with their school Principal or Parish Priest who will treat the situation with understanding, sensitivity and confidentiality.

Thank you for your continuing commitment to Catholic Education. We are proud of the quality of education provided in our schools and we are keenly aware and grateful of how much parental support we receive, both through payment of tuition fees and levies and so many other forms of generous help.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Dixon', with a stylized, flowing script.

Bill Dixon
Executive Director

