

Distribution of recurrent government funding to Catholic Education NT schools

Recurrent government funding for Catholic Education NT (CENT) schools includes the following:

1. Funding under the *Australian Education Act 2013* from the Commonwealth Government
 - Base allocation
 - Location loading
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander loading
 - Low socio-economic status loading
 - School size loading
 - Disadvantaged LOTE loading
 - Special needs students loading

2. NT Government non-government schools per capita funding
 - Base allocation
 - Indigenous loading
 - Location loading
 - Students with disabilities loading

School shares of funding under the *Australian Education Act 2013*

Through changes to the *Act* and the *Australian Education Regulation 2013* the Commonwealth Government will be increasing the Commonwealth's share of measured funding need from the existing levels to 80% by 2023 in equal annual adjustments. CENT uses the 2017 share for each school as the starting point to calculate the annual share increases on a school-by-school basis as they move to the 80% in 2023. These percentages are applied to the overall funding attracted and adjusted for student numbers. The schools' calculated funding are amalgamated into the various funding distribution models described below.

St Joseph's Catholic Flexible Learning Centre

All funding attracted to CENT for St Joseph's Catholic Flexible Learning Centre, including all loadings, is disbursed to Edmund Rice Education Australia for use at the school. The funding distribution models described below do not include any further funding for St Joseph's Catholic Flexible Learning Centre.

Special needs funding pool

The special need students loading from the Commonwealth Government and the students with disabilities loading from the NT Government are directed into the special needs funding pool. This funding pool is used to distribute funds to schools on the basis of measured needs of students under schools' inclusion support programs. Funding is also provided to the Catholic Education Office to operate the Inclusion Support Services unit.

Urban schools group-funded budget

Funding attracted by schools based in the Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs regions, other than the loadings mentioned above, are directed into the urban schools group-funded budget. This budget is a mechanism through which schools are allocated funding on the basis of needs using the following guidelines.

1. Base staffing levels are determined by student numbers at the levels required for schools to operate. This process ensures smaller schools are adequately staffed. Funding is provided to meet the full costs of these staffing levels and to provide four emergency relief teacher days per teacher per year plus coverage of maternity leave and extended sick leave.
2. Schools are provided with a per student operational loading.
3. An indigenous loading is paid to schools at a per capita rate with a higher loading for secondary schools.
4. A location loading is paid to schools at a per capita rate with a higher loading for secondary schools and the schools in Katherine and Alice Springs.
5. Schools can apply to the Catholic Education Office for funding to support students with low English language proficiency.

Urban schools all charge the same tuition fees to families, except for Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic College and St John's Catholic College. The fees are based on a schedule approved by the Catholic Education Council each year, with the exceptions noted. Schools are able to determine the nature and level of levies charged to families on top of the tuition fees. Schools keep all fees and levies they raise except for a small per student levy paid to the Catholic Education Office.

The urban schools group-funded budget also directs funds to the Catholic Education Office to pay for Principals' salaries, administration costs and a variety of centrally run programs.

Aboriginal Catholic Community Schools

Funding attracted by the five Aboriginal Catholic Community Schools (ACCS), other than the funds directed to the special needs funding pool, are directed to each of the schools on the same basis on which they are attracted after a per student levy is deducted. The levy is directed to the Catholic Education Office to pay for Principals' salaries, administration costs and centrally run programs. ACCS are fully government funded and do not charge tuition fees to families for school education.