

CEDR NEEDS BASED FUNDING ARRANGEMENT

Scope: This policy applies to all Catholic schools (primary and secondary) operated by Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton (referred to as CEDR in the document).

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton's (CEDR) Needs Based Funding Arrangement is an important mechanism through which stewardship of resources, systemic cooperation, subsidiarity, equity and access in relation to Catholic schooling are demonstrated and the mission of the Church in school education is facilitated across the Diocese of Rockhampton.

CEDR is a Catholic School Authority (CSA), administering 39 non-Government Catholic schools (primary and secondary), substantially funded through Australian Government Recurrent funding. Other recurrent funding sources include State Government grants and Parent/Carer funded tuition fees and levies.

Section 78(5) of the Australian Education Act 2013 requires CEDR to establish a Needs Based Funding Arrangement for its system of schools that complies with the provisions of the Act and to make this arrangement publicly available and transparent.

2. DESCRIPTION

This policy has been developed pursuant to the requirements of section 78 (5) of the Australian Education Act 2013 to provide transparency and accountability for CEDR's Needs Based Funding Arrangements for CEDR systemic schools (primary and secondary).

Distribution of recurrent grant funding

CEDR's Needs Based Funding Arrangement facilitates the distribution of Australian Government recurrent funding to CEDR schools (primary and secondary). Recurrent funding includes a base amount per student and loadings to students and schools (primary and secondary) with additional needs.

The Australian Government delivers CEDR funds through the Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC), as the authority responsible for administering Australian Government funding for all Catholic Schools in Queensland.

QCEC and CEDR, have adopted the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) as an estimate of how much total public funding a school needs to meet the educational needs of students enrolled in Queensland Catholic Schools.

The SRS used in the distribution calculations is identical to the one described in the *Australian Education Act* and used by the Australian Government in determining the Australian Government recurrent funding paid to the sector.

This means that 100% of funds, determined by Australian Government through the SRS, are distributed directly to CEDR systemic schools (primary and secondary), to meet the education needs of the students at the school.

System support

CEDR is a system of 39 schools (primary and secondary), geographically dispersed across a vast area throughout Central Queensland. Within this footprint, CEDR schools (primary and secondary) range in size and rurality from larger schools in regional cities to very small schools in remote areas, all providing important support, student education, and employment to their communities.

CEDR equitably supports all students and Catholic schools through a system approach to:

- providing high level curriculum, student protection, governance, legal, financial, information technology, capital/maintenance, compliance and religious formation advice to schools, regardless of location and size
- strategic system procurement and achieving cost savings through economies of scale.

CEDR System costs and school support are then equitably funded by all schools (primary and secondary), based on relative consumption and capacity.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

1. Distribution timing

- CEDR receives Australian Government funding in three payments:
 - 50% paid in January (based on previous year Federal Government Census data collection)
 - 25% paid in July (based on previous year Federal Government Census data collection)
 - Balance (including 'true-up') paid in October following Australian Government Census data collection in August.
- CEDR distributes Australian Government funding using an identical methodology to the receipt of funding outlined above. Funding is distributed within 14 days of receipt.

2. CEDR System costs and levies

- All Australian Government Recurrent Funding received by CEDR is distributed to schools (primary and secondary), with no administration costs or fees being retained.
- To fund the CEDR's System operations, a levy is charged to all schools (primary and secondary), on a per school and per student basis.

3. Transparency

- CEDR's Needs Based Funding Arrangement, as outlined in this policy, is published on CEDR's website.



4. REFLECTION MATERIAL

WEBSITES

- [Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton Website](#)

LEGISLATION

- [Australian Education Act](#) 2013

RESOURCES

- [Queensland Catholic Education Commission 2020-2029 Group Funding Guidelines](#)