



15 May 2022

Ms Anne Rebgetz
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Dear Ms Rebgetz

Thank you for your letter to Mr Albanese regarding the 2022 Election Priorities of Catholic Secondary Principals Australia (CaSPA).

Labor believes a great education is the ticket to a lifetime of opportunity. We want every Australian child to receive a world class education. We believe that parents have a right to choose their child's education and that all schools should be supported by public funding that reflects need.

Labor introduced the original needs-based, sector-blind funding arrangements for schools in 2012 and we remain committed to the principles of a needs-based, sector-blind funding model. We also believe recurrent funding arrangements for non-government schools should fairly and accurately reflect a school community's capacity to contribute to the cost of students' education.

If Labor is fortunate enough to win the federal election, Catholic schools will have funding certainty. When the Liberal Party moved to cut funding from Catholic schools in 2014, Labor opposed the cuts. We stood side-by-side with your schools and forced the government to give up and retreat on their cuts to non-government schools.

Under a Labor Government, the funding arrangements that exist for non-government schools under the Government right now, will continue in full.

Labor believes that an excellent education system is a national public good. Great early childhood education, schools, TAFEs and universities are crucial for a strong economy and democracy.

Societies with better, fairer education systems have better health outcomes, more productive workplaces, more social and economic mobility, and more democratically engaged citizens. Our education system should also provide every Australian with the opportunity to learn throughout their life.

Students and families need reliable, fast connectivity for school and work. As you have raised, the pandemic has exposed problems with digital access in rural, regional and remote areas. Labor will boost NBN speeds, deliver better mobile coverage on roads, and [improve connectivity for regional communities](#) and on farms.

Labor also has a plan to [boost education opportunities for 30,000 families](#) with no internet at home with access to free broadband for a year under Labor's plan for a [better NBN](#).

We also believe that all students should be able to learn in great schools with world class facilities. Labor has announced a [Schools Upgrade Fund](#) for building upgrades and to support better ventilation, so students can learn in a COVID-safe environment. As part of the fund, Catholic schools will be able to apply for up to \$50 million in extra funding in 2022.

Schools will be able to use the funding for school improvements, and to improve ventilation and air quality by buying air purifiers, upgrading heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, building outdoor learning spaces and replacing windows and doors so they can let fresh air in.

Labor will continue to deliver capital funding for Catholic schools under the Capital Grants Program and we'll work with States and Territories as part of the next school funding agreements so that school systems have the facilities they need to teach growing numbers of students. We will also consider ongoing support for the Non-Government Reform Support Fund as part of this process.

Every Catholic-systemic school in the country will benefit from Labor's Student Wellbeing Boost in 2022, with schools, on average, receiving \$20,000 in extra funding. Schools will be able to use the additional funding to get their students' mental health and wellbeing back on track, with funding able to be used for extra school mental health professionals, like psychologists and school counsellors; proven student wellbeing and mental health initiatives; and camps and excursions, as well as sporting and social activities that improve kids' wellbeing.

Labor will help young people get the skills they need for a great job with our [Future Made in Australia Skills Plan](#). Labor will provide 465,000 fee-free TAFE places, invest in more apprenticeships and fund up to 20,000 extra university places, putting young people on the path to a job and tackling youth unemployment. We will also introduce a [new youth engagement model](#), to provide a voice and structure for younger Australians to directly engage with government and contribute to policy development.

Labor knows that climate action is an environmental imperative and an economic opportunity. You can read more about our [climate](#) and [environment](#) policies on the ALP website.

Thank you again for sharing CaSPA's 2022 Federal election priorities with us. If you would like to read more about Labor's policies, please visit www.alp.org.au/policies.

Yours sincerely

Labor Campaign Headquarters 2022