



29th March 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

School fee relief for families

In a letter to families of children attending Catholic schools in the Diocese, Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst (CEDB) has assured families that in these uncertain times, financial assistance is available to those who are experiencing levels of financial stress as a result of job loss, business downturn or closure, or reduced working hours, due to the COVID19 pandemic.

Bishop of Bathurst, Bishop Michael McKenna said, "Our fundamental principle remains that no family will be denied a Catholic education due to genuine financial hardship. Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst will continue to provide affordable, quality Catholic education for all".

Therefore, the following will measures will apply:

- Diocesan school fees, including the Capital Works Levy for 2020, be waived for recipients of Centrelink Job Seeker Payment + C19 supplement.
- Any family may apply for deferral of all school fees, including the Capital Works Levy payments for four months, including those on payment plans.
- No payment request will be made in relation to unpaid fees to any family for four months.

As the situation is unpredictable, the CEDB will be continue to monitor and respond to changes as they happen.

Families who are experiencing financial hardship of any kind are encouraged to apply for fee concessions - particularly those experiencing the effects of the ongoing drought. Families are encouraged to contact their Catholic school for assistance and more information.

"I hope that this support is a practical expression of our Catholic values in this extremely challenging time for our community", said Bishop McKenna.

Ends

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