

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Catholic Education welcomes reappointment of Education Minister Jason Clare**

The National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) has welcomed the reappointment of the Hon Jason Clare MP as Minister for Education in the new Parliament, congratulating him on his re-election as the Member for Blaxland.

NCEC Executive Director Jacinta Collins said Minister Clare's reappointment provides continuity of leadership for Australian education, and the Catholic education sector looks forward to continuing a productive partnership.

"We warmly congratulate Minister Clare on his re-election and reappointment, and thank the Labor Government for its ongoing support and commitment to ensuring every child in Australia has access to a high-quality education, no matter their background or location," Ms Collins said.

"We particularly value the Government's recognition of the long-standing contribution Catholic education has made to Australian society over two centuries and its continued support for school choice, fair funding and sector-inclusive policy."

Ms Collins acknowledged the Government's commitment to maintaining existing funding arrangements for non-government schools.

"These commitments are vital for the 820,000 students and their families in our 1,751 Catholic schools across the country who choose a Catholic education for their children," she said.

The NCEC also welcomed the Government's support for sector-neutral policy development and its inclusion of Catholic education in key initiatives such as the Better and Fairer Schools Agreement, Building the Early Education Fund, and student wellbeing programs.

Looking ahead, Ms Collins said the Catholic sector is keen to continue discussions on critical priorities around teacher workforce, quality teaching and cost-of-living pressures on families.

*Australia's 1,751 Catholic schools educate 820,000 or one in five Australian students and are the largest provider of schooling outside of the government sector.*

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