

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**19 January 2026**

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### **CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS AUSTRALIA SUPPORTS CLARIFICATION ON SCHOOL FEE MISCONCEPTIONS**

Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA) stands in full support of the National Catholic Education Commission’s (NCEC) response to Futurity Investment Group’s *Cost of Education Report 2026*, which risks causing unnecessary concern among families considering or already enrolled in Catholic schools.

As the national body representing the voices of Catholic school parents across Australia, CSPA is committed to ensuring parents receive accurate, contextualised information about the real costs of education—information that reflects the experiences of families, not distorted projections.

#### **Parents Deserve Clarity, Not Alarm**

The Futurity report relies on a very small, non-representative sample of 2,500 parents nationwide to estimate various ancillary education costs. These figures are then magnified through long-term projections, creating a misleading and inflated impression of the cost burden for families.

“Families should feel confident that Catholic education remains an accessible and affordable option,” said Andrea Obeyesekere, Chair of CSPA. “Reports based on limited or unrepresentative data risk undermining that confidence and simply do not reflect the lived reality of most Catholic school parents.”

Many of the costs included in the report - such as optional tutoring, extracurricular programs, and additional services, vary significantly between schools and families. They are not universally experienced and should not be interpreted as standard or expected costs.

#### **Catholic Education Remains Committed to Affordability**

The rising cost of living affects families and schools alike, yet Catholic school fee structures remain consistent with other education sectors. Fee adjustments reflect

genuine increases in staffing, compliance, and operational costs, necessary to maintain high-quality, safe and supportive learning environments.

CSPA welcomes the federal government's ongoing review of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) and strongly supports efforts to ensure funding keeps pace with the true cost of educating Australian children. We also acknowledge the crucial role of the Choice and Affordability Fund in sustaining parental choice.

### **Supporting Families When They Need It Most**

Catholic schools across Australia remain committed to ensuring that no family is turned away due to financial hardship. For generations, Catholic education has served communities by supporting the most vulnerable and fostering equitable opportunities.

“We encourage any family experiencing financial pressure to speak with their school principal,” Ms Obeyesekere emphasised. “Catholic schools are deeply committed to walking alongside families through challenging times, and support options are always available.”

### **A Message to Parents**

Choosing a school is one of the most significant decisions a family makes. CSPA reassures parents that Catholic education continues to offer high-quality, values-based schooling that is both affordable and responsive to family needs.

Any claims suggesting otherwise should be considered carefully, particularly when based on limited datasets or tied to organisations selling financial products.

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### **Media Enquiries**

#### **Catholic School Parents Australia**

**Email:** [sarah.rose@cspa.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sarah.rose@cspa.catholic.edu.au) 0427 720 682

[john.obrien@cspa.catholic.edu.au](mailto:john.obrien@cspa.catholic.edu.au) 0428 283 754

**Website:** [www.cspa.catholic.edu.au](http://www.cspa.catholic.edu.au)