



# MACKILLOP NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 10 2016, 24 JUNE

## PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Dear families, students and friends,

### ACT Budget

At the back of the newsletter you will see a copy of the media release written by the Catholic Education Commission expressing its profound disappointment with the government of Andrew Barr allocating \$21.5 million to public education to better meet the needs of students with complex learning needs and \$0 for such students in Catholic and Independent schools. Please understand that I am delighted for public education to have more ACT tax payer funds to support them with the implementation of the Shaddock Report and to generally better support students with complex needs. I am disgusted that Andrew Barr and his government think so little of students with complex learning needs in other sectors that they have allocated nothing!

All Principals in Catholics schools in the ACT have drafted a letter and signed it condemning this decision. As yet the Canberra Times has not published this letter but a copy has been sent to the Catholic Voice. MacKillop will always be an advocate for increasing the whole pie of Commonwealth and Territory funding to education, not for taking dollars from one sector to give to another. The ACT government needs to better support all students with complex needs and the public dollar should follow this need regardless of the sector to which the student's school belongs.

### Year 7 Camp

Congratulations to Mr Ciccarone and Mr Belcher and to the Year 7 teachers who organised and conducted a very successful Year 7 camp at Collaroy this week. Although there were some issues about food and bus arrival times the conduct of the students, their enthusiasm and willingness to participate was of a very high standard and they are to be commended. It was a pleasure to be able to spend two evenings with them. I think we also all enjoyed the fleeting respite from Canberra's wind and rain that the camp provided.

### A Cappella Choir - National A Cappella Championships

Congratulations to Mrs Kim Maloney and the College's A Cappella Choir, which has been successful in progressing to the live semi-final stage of the AUSACA National A Cappella Championships in Melbourne this September. Judges and voters deemed the choir worthy of a place in the Secondary School Division finals for their video rendition of the *Irish Blessing*. We wish them the best of luck as they aim to progress to the Grand Final.

### Term 2 comes to an end

Thank you for the term. Term 2 is a very busy one in the College calendar with Enrolment Period, the Careers Expo, Year 7 and Year 11 Open Night, Try MacKillop Day, the Athletics Carnival, Variety Night, drama performances, and a range of camps and excursions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for the "extra mile" they have gone this term, the students for their willing spirit of corporation and to their families who have been so supportive over the past 10 weeks. For many students, fine memories were made this term that will stay with them and sustain them well into the future.

All the best for a wonderful holiday.

Yours sincerely in St Mary MacKillop,

MICHAEL LEE  
PRINCIPAL

## PRINCIPAL'S PRAYER

Lord, we give thanks for the term and wish peace and safety for our community over the school holidays.  
Amen

## UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE MONDAY <b>27</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 11 2017 Parent Info Session</li> </ul>
JUNE WEDNESDAY <b>29</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 10 Reflection Day (A, F, PCoPA, PEPC)</li> <li>Year 10 Course Counselling (E, W)</li> </ul>
JUNE THURSDAY <b>30</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 10 Reflection Day (E, W)</li> <li>Year 10 Course Counselling (A, F, PCoPA, PEPC)</li> </ul>
JULY FRIDAY <b>01</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Last day of Term 2</li> <li>Status Awards Afternoon (W)</li> </ul>
JULY MONDAY <b>18</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Term 3 begins</li> </ul>

# COLLEGE NEWS

## Year 11 2017 Parent Info Session

The College will be hosting an Information Evening for parents of current Year 10 students to explain the Senior Secondary Certificate. Information about Tertiary, Accredited, Vocational, C and H courses will be discussed, along with majors and minors. The Information Evening will be held in the Isabella Campus Gym, Monday 27 June at 6.00pm.

The information will assist parents and students ahead of the scheduled course Counselling Interviews to take place on Wednesday 29 June or Thursday 30 June.

*Colby Cruwys, Senior Studies Coordinator*

## PE Pathways applications

Applications for the PE Pathways course for Year 10 2017 are due by Tuesday 19 July. Application forms for the course were distributed at the information session, which was held on 16 June.

Should you require an application form, please contact [pepathways@mackillop.act.edu.au](mailto:pepathways@mackillop.act.edu.au).

*Braden Longo, PE*

## World Challenge Expedition

A reminder that the World Challenge - Vietnam & Cambodia forms are due Friday 24 June. Please hand them in at Student Reception on your campus so that preparations may begin for the 2017 World Challenge Expedition.

This is a great opportunity for students to be challenged over the next 18 months and develop some unique and real-world life skills and hopefully also gain some valuable life perspective by travelling in developing-world countries.

For more assistance, contact World Challenge on 1300 728 568.

## Parent Alert/Concern

In recent times a number of parents, while waiting in their cars to collect children from College activities, particularly after dark, have been approached by a young man asking for money. The College has spoken to the police about the matter and they have advised that parents not engage in conversation with the man, to remain in their cars and to call the police on 131 444.

While not a common occurrence, it has occurred enough times to cause concern, so please be careful, particularly after dark and while you are alone in your car while waiting for your child.

*Paul O'Callaghan, Wanniasa Campus Head*

## Engarde Fencing Club

The Engarde at MacKillop Fencing Club, which meets and trains at the College's Wanniasa Campus, has a Come and try/Beginners course starting next term on 18 July. For information about Engarde at MacKillop, visit [www.engardemackillop.club](http://www.engardemackillop.club).

## Student Achievement

Riley Coleman and Bradley Jones (Year 10) will represent the ACT at the National Rugby League Championships in Port Macquarie next week.

Maren Fields, Josephine Dubbert (Year 7), Georja Dickie, Demi Nikias, and Emily Jensen (Year 9) have been selected to compete in the FFA National Youth Soccer Championships in Coffs Harbour during the July school holidays.

Cameron Moore and Nicholas Gordon (both Year 7) have been selected to represent the ACT at July's National AFL Championships in Queensland.

Gabrielle Petersen and Ashley Scensor (both Year 9) will represent the ACT in the National Netball Championships in Adelaide at the end of July.

Samantha Bowles, Joshua Williams (Year 9), Malcolm Long, and Ethan Long (Year 10) have been selected to represent the ACT in August's National Hockey Championships in Melbourne.



## Qkr! - New way to pay

From Term 3 you will now be able to make all payments to St Mary MacKillop College through the Qkr! app. Details on how to download and register the App are attached to this newsletter.

Payments for school fees, excursions and tours etc can all be made using Qkr!

If you currently pay your school fees by Direct Debit or Bpay nothing will change. Credit Card and eftpos will still be available for payments.

*Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager*

## ACT Secondary Bursary Scheme

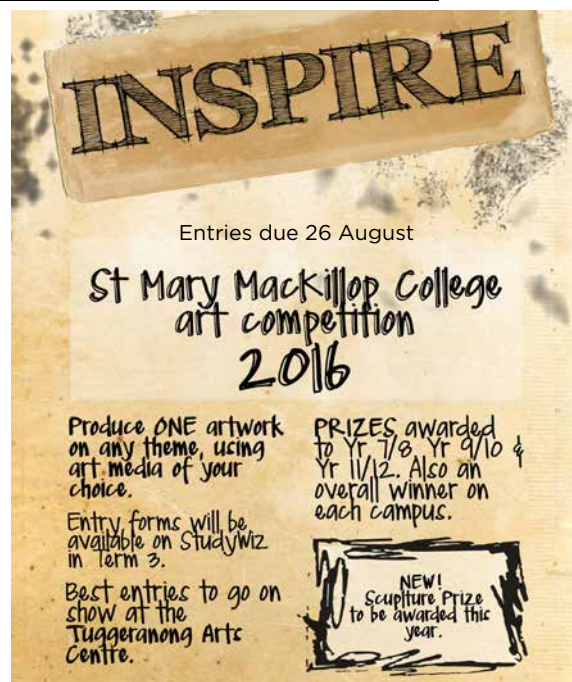
The ACT Government's Secondary Bursary Scheme provides assistance to low income earners in the ACT with dependent full-time students.

Eligibility requirements and application forms are available online at <http://www.det.act.gov.au> and by following the links located at the top of the home page - School education/starting school/financial assistance for families.

For further information please ring the Bursary Administrator on 6205 8262.

*Michelle Predovan, Fees Manager*

## INSPIRE Art Competition



## ACTION Bus Services

ACTION have advised that normal bus services will be disrupted between 10.00am and 2.00pm on Tuesday 28 June to allow for a meeting to be held of all drivers. Morning and afternoon school bus services will NOT be affected.



# WANNIASSA NEWS

## Year 10 2017 Transition Day

On 22 June, the Year 9 cohort experienced life on the Isabella Campus in preparation for the transition to Year 10 in 2017. We travelled in paired PC classes to different areas and classrooms of the campus and learned about elective choices, rules, teachers and opportunities that Isabella had to offer. The day was rather full-on with constant information given to us by each teacher and faculty; however, it was a great day for us to prepare ourselves for next year and all of the choices that come along with the transition. In the afternoon, we gathered together again for a liturgy where we recited prayers that asked God to stay with us during our journey. This was a great way to relax after such an informative day; we also did some activities within our Pastoral Care Classes, which were a great bonding opportunity and a lot of fun.

Overall, the Transition Day was a success. Many minds were opened and opportunities were given to us that have left us with a positive mindset and ready-to-go attitude setting us all up for greatness next year.

*Rebecca Murphy, Year 9*

## Year 9 Careers Information Session

On 21 June, Year 9 attended a Careers Day presentation in the theatre at the Wanniasa Campus. Mrs Hundy, the Careers and Vocational Education Coordinator, arranged for six past MacKillop students to come and speak to us about their experience at the College and what they have been doing since graduating. All of the guests had different stories to share about their journeys from school life to adult and working life. Although each of their paths differed from one another, their advice for us was very much the same. They told us to always listen to our teachers, take every opportunity that is offered to us, always do our best and that it was okay not to know what we wanted to do with our future. These reassuring messages put a lot of us at ease, especially since they were coming from those who have already experienced this situation.

We were also spoken to by a member of the Kmart establishment who gave us useful tips on applying for jobs, interview tips and how to be the most employable person we can be.

Overall, it was a great presentation that provided us with many tools that we can take with us and use for the rest of our lives.

*Rebecca Zivkovic, Year 9*

## Year 8 Coastlife

On 21 and 22 June, Year 8 participated in a range of activities which were led by the Coastlife team. These activities focused around building friendships, teamwork and having our voices heard whilst also being engaging and enjoyable. The program consisted of games and activities that were designed to give students an opportunity to work with new personalities and faces that we don't always come in contact with. Year 8 were also fortunate enough to have St John's First Aid come to the College and teach us the essentials of first aid. The facilitators from St John's taught Year 8 the elements of CPR, concussion and treating broken bones, wounds and embedded objects. The treatment and techniques that we learnt are essential and we will now be able to draw on our extensive knowledge in crucial situations.

Overall it was a very positive day and the students will be able to take away important life lessons that will assist them in future circumstances.

*Ben Walker, Year 8*



## Year 8 Visit to MacKillop Place

The Year 8 pilgrimage was a great success and brought everyone together. The event was a great opportunity to learn about Mary MacKillop; the great saint our school is named after. It also meant that we could all spend some time together and have some fun. The year group was split into two groups and both of these had a chance to visit Mary MacKillop Place and St Mary's Cathedral.

Mary MacKillop Place offered a tour around the museum, the cottage in which she lived and the tomb where she was buried. We engaged in little activities to learn about the history of Mary and her life events. The highlight of MacKillop Place was the tomb of our saint, Mary MacKillop. I am sure everyone was touched by her story and felt her presence throughout the place.

St Mary's Cathedral certainly was a stunning and amazing place to visit. The moment we arrived we were all struck by its size. There were many statues and artworks that illustrated many saints that influenced the Church. Parts like the great stain glass windows, the great pipe organs and the mosaic on the floor of the crypt left many of us speechless.

*Nadia McNeill, Year 8*

## YLead Leadership Program

On 23 June, the YLead team visited Year 9 to run their leadership program. They presented us with many enjoyable activities ranging from opinion-based debates to Jenga games. The four activities were:

- Opinion debates - where we discussed various topics and our opinions on them.
- 10 steps to success - we had to find the correct path using teamwork, trial and error.
- Speed Ball - we had to get the ball to move through the team as fast as possible.
- Jenga - we had to distract our fellow peers as they tried to build the towers.

Even though these activities seemed as though they were just fun games, each activity in their own way showed us that even if we fail we should always persist at trying our best and improving our selves in any way we can, no matter the distractions that you may face. Even if we fail, we can learn from that failure to make ourselves better and understand the views of others around us. To me this is the attribute of a good leader that YLead was trying to portray in their presentation. The YLead team showed us inspirational videos and stories of people doing amazing things with their lives, and told us we should strive to do the same.

*Josephine Brogden, Year 9*

## Parentingideas

This week's Parentingideas article, "School reports" focuses on five tips to help parents through the stress of report time for students and families.

*Monica Bailey*

*AP Pastoral Care, Wanniasa Campus*

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Canberra School of Tennis

Tennis Holiday Camps are running at the Pines Tennis Club and Weston Creek Tennis Clubs these school holidays. A range of courses and activities are available. Visit [csot.com.au](http://csot.com.au) for information.

## B.Firm Battle Games

B.Firm is running a battle games holiday program for ages 7-15. The games provide opportunities for teamwork, fun, adventure, problem solving, and friendship. Visit [www.bfirm.com.au/battlegames](http://www.bfirm.com.au/battlegames).

## Canberra Youth Theatre

Canberra Youth Theatre's Outer Metropolitan Workshop Program provides semester-long drama programs for 12 - 16 year olds at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre. Workshops provide a safe environment for young and emerging artists to be creative and actively develop fundamental theatre performance skills.

Workshops commence on 20 July until 2 November every Wednesday from 4:30 - 6pm. Visit [www.cytcc.net](http://www.cytcc.net) for information.



# For quicker, hassle-free school payments, try Qkr! today

Introducing Qkr! (pronounced 'quicker') by MasterCard, the secure and easy way to order and pay for school items from your phone at a time and place that suits you.

With Qkr! you can:

- Pay for school fees, uniforms, excursions and more;
- See your receipts on the app and get them sent by email if required.



## Getting started is easy - try it yourself today

### Step 1 Download Qkr!

on your Android phone or iPhone. iPad users can download iPhone app



### Step 2 Register

Select your Country of Residence as 'Australia' and follow the steps to register

### Step 3 Find our school

Our school will appear in 'Nearby Locations' if you're within 10km's of the school, or search for our school by name.

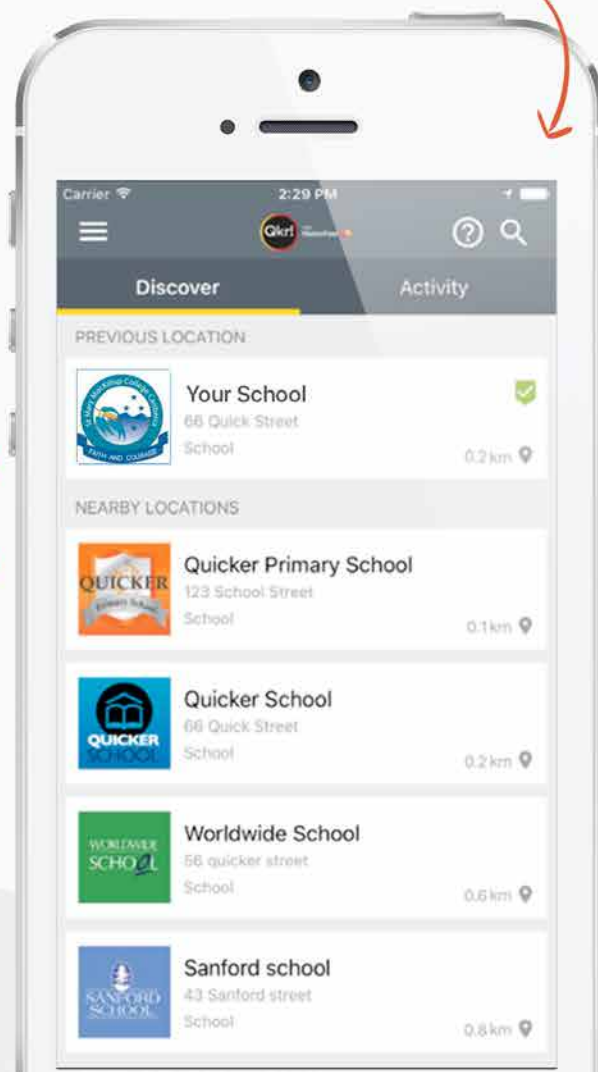
### Step 4 Register your children

When first accessing our school you will be prompted to add a student profile for your child. This allows you to make orders and payments for them.

If you have made a purchase you can select our school from 'Previous Location'

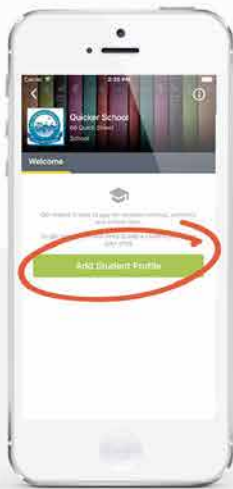
If you're within 10 kms of the school, you can select our school from 'Nearby Locations'

Search for our school name

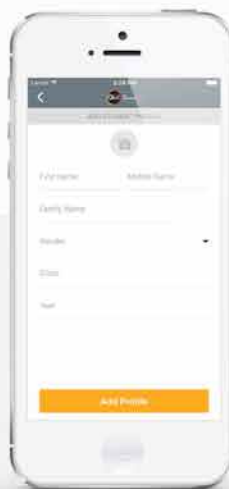


## Add your children's details in Student Profiles

Select  
'Add student profile'



Add each  
child's details



Manage each  
child's details in  
Student Profiles



## Purchase school items

Select a menu  
from our school



Select child  
you are  
ordering for



Select your items

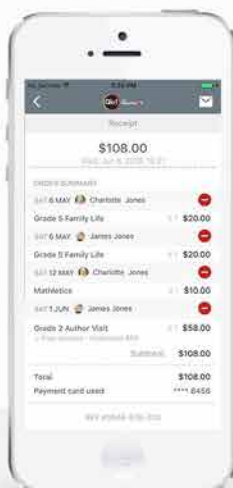


Tap 'Checkout'  
then confirm and pay



## Making payments

Add up to 5 cards to your wallet



At checkout select which card to  
pay with.

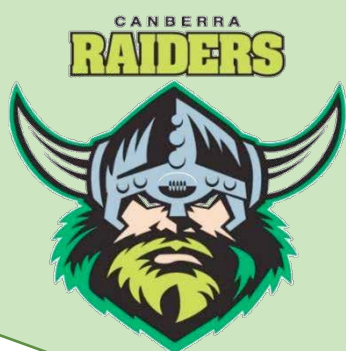
Pay with any cards accepted by  
the school.

Once your payment is approved you  
can continue to the home page, or  
view your receipt.



# SCHOOL DAY OUT

3:00pm Saturday July 23 @ GIO Stadium



**Silver Reserved Seats:**

Family: 2 adults +2 junior: \$55 / Adult: \$20 / Junior (5-15yrs): \$15

Purchase tickets by Thursday 30 June to be a part of this special event!!

**HELP YOUR SCHOOL WIN THESE AWESOME PRIZES**

**1<sup>ST</sup>: \$500 / 2<sup>ND</sup>: \$300 / 3<sup>RD</sup>: \$200 HART SPORTS VOUCHERS**

Interested in attending the Raiders v Warriors NRL fixture? Take part in the School Day Out!

#### **HOW TO BUY TICKETS**

Payment must be made through the Qkr! app on your smart phone. Instructions on how to use Qkr! can be found earlier in the newsletter.

Tickets are available to staff, students and parents.

Tickets will be available for collection from the Front Office of either campus from Thursday 21 July.



## *Building parent-school partnerships*

WORDS Lakshmi Singh

# School Reports - tips for parents

Report time can be stressful for parents and students. Here are 5 expert tips to guide parents through this process.

School reports could easily be considered a form of art. This type of art, like any other is open to interpretation, review and criticism. It's just that these reviews don't really make it into any literary publications but no doubt can have a huge impact on a child and their family. How then should parents wear the hat of a critic and not only get an accurate representation of their child's work but implement measures to cater to the feedback?

### **A primary school vs a secondary school report – understanding the differences**

In primary schools, teachers report on the child's behaviour in class, educational progression and socialisation skills, says Dr. Karen Phillip, preschool educator and a parenting expert.

However, as children get older and are offered more in terms of electives, the expectations shift as their focus and attentive behaviour should become obvious in their reports, says Dr. Phillip.

As they gravitate towards their chosen subjects of interest, the effort they put in

and the results can be expected to reflect their work ethic.

"In high school teachers report on the child's academic results, dedication to lessons, assignment results and class participation," she says.

Also, at this age, any concerns are generally better picked up by both the child and the teacher.

"Parents whose children are in high school usually place a higher value on the school report as this may be vital to enter the University of choice," she says. Although they may realise the report is describing their child's progress, expecting more from teachers and blaming them for a poor report is a regular occurrence, she says.

"Parents see their child as intelligent, better than others, special, more gifted. When a report is average, they blame," she says.

However, before jumping to conclusions, it is important to note that quite a few factors could be in play when it comes to a school report. Problems mentioned in reports could be as a result of issues from

home transferring across to school – bullying, anxiety or a range of other feelings/situations, says Dr. Phillip. Younger children may not be able to express this adequately.

Elizabeth Watson, Acting Director of Curriculum at Waverley College's Senior School, believes feedback and reporting is essential in helping students reach their learning goals, but they won't be very effective if they aren't treated as conversation starters and opportunities for active reflection.

### **Engage in discussion**

It is important to take a broader view when reading a child's report, says Dr. Phillip.

"Reports can sometimes be a teacher's perspective and not necessarily the complete picture. Talk to both child and teacher to gain a more complete understanding and never judge the child harshly, instead focus on the solution to any problem or issue causing this."

**more on page 2** >>



Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my **FREE** weekly email parenting guide at [parentingideas.com.au](http://parentingideas.com.au). You'll be so glad you did.







## ... School reports - tips for parents ...

Watson recommends asking the student to perform a self-assessment by posing questions like: "Does this report reflect my understanding in each subject?", "Does this report reflect my effort in each subject?" and "What will I do differently next time?"

Following this self-assessment, it can help to discuss ways of improvement and seek recommendation from teachers.

"Should there be areas that need attention, rather than focus on marks or ranks, think about strategies that will improve the quality of your work," says Watson.

### Establish strategies for improvement

Watson encourages parents to make the most of opportunities such as parent teacher interviews. This is where parents can ask for specific areas that need developing and strategies for improvement. Some sample questions parents could ask teachers include:

#### 1 Mathematics

"What particular topics need attention?"

#### 2 English

"Did [student] fall down with his paragraph construction or with his grammar/spelling?"

#### 3 Science

"Did [student] perform better in the practical or theory component of the assessment?"

#### 4 Art

"How much time should [student] be spending on his/her major work compared to theory?"

Parents developing an understanding of the curriculum and content being taught can help establish specific strategies.

"In addition, establishing a more relaxed atmosphere at home so the child doesn't always feel stressed when studying is also a very important strategy. We need to be taking the emphasis off the results and placing it more on the process and the child's overall experience," he says.

### Tips from the experts

- 1 Discuss the report with the teacher to fully understand the situation, be curious, and don't jump to conclusions.
- 2 Talk to your child calmly, go through the results and ask how they are feeling about it.
- 3 Ask your child questions like: "Is your workspace conducive to quality home study?", "How can I help you manage your workload?", "What strategies do you think will make a difference?"
- 4 Set practical small steps for the child to work on to reach the final goal.
- 5 Support them along this journey, check in regularly and re-adjust if required.

Lakshmi Singh



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**Catholic Education Commission**  
Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **ACT BUDGET IGNORES MOST VULNERABLE STUDENTS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

Director of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, Mrs Moira Najdecki, will seek an urgent meeting with the ACT Chief Minister and Treasurer, Mr Andrew Barr to express her extreme dissatisfaction and that of the Catholic Education Commission with the lack of investment in Catholic Schools in the ACT Budget.

The Government's Budget briefing yesterday included no new initiatives for Catholic Schools in the ACT. The Budget delivered \$21.5 million in funding for public schools to respond to recommendations of the 'Schools for All' report whilst not providing a single dollar to enable Catholic Schools to meet the same outcomes for their students. Catholic Schools and the parents of students in our schools are committed to achieving the recommendations of the Shaddock Review; the budget expresses disdain for the needs of students in Catholic Schools and their parents.

Chair of the ACT Catholic Education Commission, Associate Professor Patrick McArdle said 'Governments have a core responsibility to meet the needs of all students in the Territory, especially those with particular and complex needs regardless of the choices of their parents about the type of education that meet their family requirements. Since over 25 per cent of all students in the ACT attend Catholic schools, Government spending should reflect this distribution of students. In this Budget the Government is showing that education funding for ACT Catholic schools is a low priority.'

Mr Paul Compton, Chair of Catholic School Parents for the Archdiocese said, 'Parents who have a child with a disability or complex need should not be disadvantaged because they choose a Catholic education for their child. These families must be supported.'

The latest ACARA Financial data on the MYSCHOOL website shows that for each dollar of Territory funding going to a student in an ACT government school a student in a Catholic school receives less than 17 cents. This is the lowest amount provided by any State or Territory Government in the country. The ACT Government is demonstrating a continuing lack of respect for the choices of ACT families, ACT teachers and the requirements of over 17000 ACT students most particularly those with complex needs.

For further information please contact: Frances Neuss, 62345455.

8 June 2016