

# **AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR THE DEFENCE OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS**

## **PRESS RELEASE 655#**

### **THE TIPPING POINT OF STATE AID:**

#### **When it costs taxpayers MORE to fund ‘Poor’ Catholic schools!**

The time has come to pull the plug on the State Aid mythologising. Public funding of Catholic education does not save the taxpayer any money. Rather in some areas, Catholic schools cost the taxpayer MORE than Public Education .

Ofuscation and misinterpretation of even public statistics by the Catholic Education Office is finally being exposed.

The Victorian Auditor-General revealed the treatment of diversion of public money for the disadvantaged to the advantaged by the Catholic Education Office of Victoria. (See Dogs Press Releases 647 and 649 at <http://www.adogs.info/press/state-auditor-general-finally-blows-whistle-public-funding-private-schools> and [Victorian Catholic Education Commission : A Self-Regulated System Favouring High SES Schools in Funding Allocations](#) .

Yet Stephen Elder, CEO of Catholic Education Office in Victoria has claimed on the John Faine show in 2015 that “We ..Catholic Schools) only get 80% of the Public Funding that a Public School receives, and only 90% of that funding level when our fees are included ... and this is shown on the “My School” website”. And “We save the taxpayers millions as our parents pay”.

One public school supporter decided to check. He went to the MYSCHOOL website.

The following tables are the result of his researches. They give the lie to the claims of Stephen Elder and indicate that the time has come to do a fact check on the unnecessary expenditure on education expenditure – in the form of State Aid. Public schools can do a better job for much less. They don’t duplicate facilities and they don’t engage in a resource arms race.

Our researcher notes that on each document the final column indicates the % of Public Funding (Excluding Fees) received by the Catholic Primary School compared to Public Primary School(s) IN THE SAME COMMUNITY

**Document # 1** Comparative funding for a local township – Castlemaine VIC. Clearly the local Catholic School (St Mary’s) receives more funding than the 4 Public Primary Schools in the town.

**Document # 2** Expanded the analysis to include most of the Macedon (State) electorate. Again, focussed on Communities which had both a Local Catholic and Public Primary School. Again Catholic Primary Schools ALWAYS received more Public Funding per student regardless of School size or SES.

**Document # 3** To avoid allegations of “Cherry Picking” expanded analysis to 21 Communities selected largely at random. Found 3 Catholic Primary Schools which received less Public funding than the nearest Public Primary.

**Document # 4** A quick scan of other States. This indicates (tiny sample)

\* the “80 / 90” Statement

- Probably applies in Queensland
- May apply in Tasmania and South Australia
- Probably doesn’t apply in West Australia
- Doesn’t apply in NSW
- (From Documents #1, #2 and #3) almost NEVER applies in Victoria

The research has focussed on Local Communities because that is where the impact on local Public Schools is felt as comparisons are made by Community members seeking the “best” School for their child.

Public Schools in Victoria, in particular, suffer because Catholic and Independent School funding is based on the NATIONAL spend on Public School SYSTEMS, and Victoria has (by far) the lowest expenditure of any State.

**DOGS thank our researcher for this information.**

**LISTEN TO DOGS PROGRAM**

**ON 3CR**

**855 ON THE AM DIAL: 12.00 NOON SATURDAYS**

DOCUMENT #1 MY SCHOOL 2016 PUBLIC FUNDING (NOT FEES) Source: My School Website 2016

CASTLEMAINE

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ENROL</u>	<u>SES</u>	<u>Per Student Funding</u>			<u>Total Public Funding</u>	<u>Cath/Public per student%</u>
			<u>ICSEA</u>	<u>Federal \$</u>	<u>State \$</u>		
St Marys	120.4	1013	11,082	2,916	13,998	1,685,359	
Steiner (P-8)	178.4	1078	7,553	2,975	10,528	1,878,195 (+ Fees \$7,676)	
Castlemaine	184	1031	1,538	6,571	8,109	1,492,056	172%
Cast. North	217	1104	1,434	6,212	7,646	1,659,182	182%

Winters Flat	207	1051	1,724	6,986	8,710	1,802,970	160%
Camp Creek	114	981	2,389	9,432	11,821	1,347,594	118%

The reported figures for Victorian government schools do not only reflect income direct to individual schools. The reporting includes a significant amount of services delivered in kind such as primary welfare officers, student support services, school nurses, computer and internet services, IT infrastructure and a range of other programs and services that benefit students, either directly or indirectly. These items are classified as 'revenue' as they represent a benefit to schools. (*seems to average 20-25% of above*). Source My School Website – explanation of funding for Public Schools.

Over 96 per cent of Catholic schools are systemic and operate under 'block funding' arrangements with governments. Catholic Education Commissions allocate government funding to systemic schools according to the principles, needs, objectives and priorities of systemic schools within each state/territory as determined through a collaborative process involving schools, principals and dioceses. (*Sounds like genuine "Needs based" funding*). Source My School Website Funding for Catholic Schools

NOTES: St Mary's receives \$193,303 more than Castlemaine PS (64 more students), \$26,177 more than North (97 more students) and \$337,765 more than Campbells Creek, which has 6 fewer students and a lower SES.

DOCUMENT # 2 MY SCHOOL 2016 PUBLIC FUNDING (NOT FEES) Source: My School Website 2016

MACEDON RANGES PRIMARY SCHOOLS BY TOWNSHIP

SCHOOL	ENROL	SES	Per Student Funding			Total Public Funding	Cath/Public per student%
			ICSEA	Federal \$	State \$		
Kyneton PS	288	1015	1,539	6,357	7,896	2,274,048	
Our Ladies Kyneton	285	1045	7,057	2,116	9,173	2,614,305	116%
(Our Ladies 340,257 more PUBLIC funding)							
Lancefield PS	172	1015	1,592	6,287	7,879	1,355,188	
St Mary's Lancefield	142	1055	8,991	2,598	11,589	1,645,638	147%
(Wow! 30 fewer students - \$290,450 more Public Funding. 1.5 EFT staff <u>less</u> than Lancefield PS							

New Gisborne PS	506	1084	1,363	5,950	7,313	3,700,378	
Holy Cross	334	1082	6,313	2,038	8,351	2,788,234	114%

(New Gisborne PS has 52% more students, gets 32% more Public Funding)

Gisborne PS	418	1056	1,296	5,680	6,976	2,915,968	
St Brigids	191	1081	8,791	2,227	11,018	2,104,438	157%

(Gisborne PS has 118% more students, receives 38% more public funding – 227 more students @ \$3,575 each)

Woodend PS	388	1090	1,390	6,104	7,494	2,907,672	
St Ambrose	230	1055	6,867	1,948	8,815	2,027,450	117%

(Woodend PS has 68% more students, receives 43% more public funding)

Macedon PS	230	1100	1,701	6,688	8,389	1,929,470	105%
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(Macedon PS same enrolment as St Ambrose, receives \$97,980 less public funding)

Daylesford PS	292	1033	1,620	7,091	8,711	2,543,612	130%
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Hepburn PS	61	966	2,037	8,344	10,381	633,241	108%
<b>St Michaels D'sford</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>1059</b>	<b>8,981</b>	<b>2,304</b>	<b>11,285</b>	<b>1,083,360</b>	
Trentham	94	1058	1,787	7,870	9,657	907,758	113%
Tylden	94	1077	2,163	8,569	10,732	1,008,808	105%
Malmsbury PS 81	1042	2,066	8,616	10,682		865,242	106%

SECONDARY SCHOOLS – MORE DIFFICULT TO MAKE COMPARISONS THAN PRIMARY

Kyneton Sec	529	972	2,191	9,511	11,702	6,190,358	
Sacred Heart	819	1063	8,149	2,110	10,259	8,402,121 (Fees \$5,012 student)	
Braemar	748	1127	7,017	1,300	8,317	6,221,116 (Fees \$10,873 student)	
Candlebark (P-7)	152	1115	6,045	1,694	7,739	1,176,234 (Fees \$11,397 student)	

Cf Lancefield PS 172 students - Public Funding \$7,789 per student)

On the face of it , Sacred Heart (unlike ALL the Primary Schools above) does only receive 87% of the Public Funding that KSC does)

**BUT** EXPLANATION OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION (FROM MY SCHOOL WEBSITE)

### Government Schools Victoria

The reported figures for Victorian government schools do not only reflect income direct to individual schools. The reporting includes a significant amount of services delivered in kind such as primary welfare officers, student support services, school nurses, computer and internet services, IT infrastructure and a range of other programs and services that benefit students, either directly or indirectly. These items are classified as 'revenue' as they represent a benefit to schools. *(seems to average 20-25% of above)*. Source My School Website – explanation of funding for Public Schools. SO *Financial data shown above for Public Schools (Primary and Secondary) actually significantly higher than what is actually available for Public Schools to run the school*

### Catholic Systemic Schools

Over 96 per cent of Catholic schools are systemic and operate under 'block funding' arrangements with governments. Catholic Education Commissions allocate government funding to systemic schools according to the principles, needs, objectives and priorities of systemic schools within each state/territory as determined through a collaborative process involving schools, principals and dioceses. *(Sounds like genuine "Needs based" funding)*. Source My School Website Funding for Catholic Schools. *Is Catholic Education Office effectively running their own "private Gonski"*

**DOCUMENT #3 MY SCHOOL PUBLIC VS CATHOLIC PRIMARY – PUBLIC FUNDING ONLY (NO FEES)**

**BY COMMUNITY**

**SCHOOL NAME    SES / ICSEA RANKING (1000 is “Average”)    ENROLMENT    PUBLIC FUNDING PER STUDENT  
Cath/Public%**

**PUBLIC PRIMARY**

**CATHOLIC PRIMARY (CLOSEST)**

**CARLTON**

Carlton Gardens PS	1118	266	8,360	Sacred Heart Fitzroy	889	120	14,161	169%
Carlton PS	932	92	12,342	St Josephs Collingwood	879	136	14,457	117%

**CLIFTON HILL**

Clifton Hill PS		1186	613	7,620	St Johns	1085	160	10,931	143%
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**ROSANNA**

Rosanna PS	1071	314	7,587	St Martin of Tours	1120	509	7,252	95%
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**BRUNSWICK / MORELAND / COBURG**

Brunswick North	1143	429	7,969	St Josephs	1130	314	8,255	103%
Brunswick Nth West	1119	278	7,377	St Fidelis	1094	336	8,259	112%
Coburg PS	1063	221	8,234	St Pauls Coburg	1101	257	9,417	114%

**BOX HILL**

Box Hill Nth PS	1104	296	8,138	St Francis Xavier	1127	331	8,071	99%
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**SURREY HILLS**

Surrey Hills PS	1144	397	7,606	Our Lady Perpet. Succour	1173	183	9,568	126%
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**HEALESVILLE**

Healesville PS	978	357	8,173	St Brigids	1085	297	9,009	110%
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**DOCUMENT # 4 MY SCHOOL 2016 NATIONAL**

**QUEENSLAND**

**SUNSHINE BEACH**

State School 1073 790 \$9,874

St Thomas Moore 1085 758 \$7,482 75.7%

**CALOONDRA**

State School 1020 454 \$11,497

Our Lady Rosary 1066 357 \$8,380 72.8%

**NEW SOUTH WALES**

**VAUCLUSE**

Public School 1152 305 \$11,033

McAuley Catholic 1158 149 \$12,914  
117%

**GUNDAGAI**

Public Primary 925 171 \$9,770

St Patricks PS 1016 123 \$10,507 107%

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**EDWARDSTOWN**

Primary School 1060 361 \$10,209

St Anthony's 1081 154 \$10,835 106%

**NORWOOD**

Primary School 1054 368 \$12,169

St Josephs 1124 236 \$9,214 76%

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**FREMANTLE**

Primary School 1137 200 \$12,893

St Patricks 1070 196 \$10,469 81%

**CURRAMBINE**

Primary School 1055 840 \$9,594

Francis Jordan Cath 1087 425 \$8,382  
87%

**TASMANIA**

**DEVONPORT**

Primary School 928 290 \$12,022

Our Lady Lourdes 1032 385 \$8,675 72%

**LENAH VALLEY**

Primary School 1044 452 \$11,428

Immaculate Heart 1030 152 \$10,781 94%



