AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR THE DEFENCE OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

Press Release 1013

Can the public education system survive residualisation?

The public education system in Australia is at the crossroads. Years of favouritism to the private religious system by both the Coalition and the Labor Party are leading to its 'residualisation'.

Since its introduction in the first half of the nineteenth century, the religious, denominational system has never accepted its existence. It started in 1848 in Australia as a replica of the "Irish National system, but whereas in Australia politicians and administrators were prepared to confront aggressive denominationalists like the Catholic Church, in Ireland, the opposite occurred and national schools became denominational schools. Even now, in Ireland secularists have to fight hard for non-sectarian schools.

One wonders whether Australia is now on the same trajectory.

In 2024, Australian public schools are funded systematically below the resource standard while private schools, on top of their fee and endowment income are in many cases funded well above that standard.

New figures demonstrate the bias against public schools in Australia's school funding system.

The SRS (Schooling Resource Standard) is an estimate of the minimum funding a school needs to meet its students' educational needs. Based on recommendations made by the 2011 Gonski review of school funding, the SRS amount includes a base amount and up to six needs-based loadings.

Only 1.3 per cent of public schools receive the SRS amount they are entitled to, compared with 98 per cent of private schools.

A review of school funding by the Productivity Commission found that funding for private schools has increased by almost twice as much as public schools. In the nine years prior to 2021-22, private school funding rose by 37 per cent, compared with an increase of 20.2 per cent for public schools.

Government funding for Catholic and Independent schools has increased much more than for public schools since 2009. Government funding has enabled private schools to have a much higher income per student than public schools and to provide more teaching and material resources per student than in public schools. It is extraordinary, but shameful, that Australia's school funding system so favours the privilege over the under-privileged.

The new figures published by the Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority (ADARA) and adjusted for inflation by Save Our Schools show that between 2009 and 2022 government funding (Commonwealth and state) for Catholic schools increased by \$2,865 per student and by \$2,500 in Independent schools compared to \$1,621 for public schools. In percentage terms, the increase for Catholic and Independent schools was well over double that for public schools – 37.1%, 39.6% and 15.3% respectively. See https://saveourschools.com.au/funding/government-funding-increases-continue-to-favour-private-schools-2/

But now the actual maintenance of existing facilities and the expansion of the public system in times of population increase, are up for grabs. Robyn Grace and Sherryn Groch from the *Age* on April 17, have revealed that only 60 Victorian public schools will share in federal funding for essential upgrades while private schools walk away with very generous, continuing taxpayer subsidies. And the funding for public schools could run out this year.

Does this mean that the future of public education in Australia is in doubt as our politicians follow the religious lobby back into a divisive denominational system?

Consider the following article which has a list of the multi-millions to private schools and the chicken feed fed to the public schools. https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/these-schools-won-money-for-much-needed-upgrades-but-the-funding-could-run-out-20240416-p5fka8.html

These schools won money for much-needed upgrades. But the funding could run out

By Robyn Grace and Sherryn Groch
April 17, 2024 — 12.01am

More than 60 Victorian public schools will share in federal funding for essential upgrades such as toilet blocks and playgrounds, but those that missed out may have to look elsewhere for help as the one-off capital program expires with no commitment for its renewal.

The federal Education Department will on Wednesday announce \$45 million for upgrades to 67 Victorian public schools with the greatest level of need, under its Schools Upgrade Fund.

Sixty-seven Victorian public schools will receive federal government grants, but education advocates say the funding should continue.

This is the second round of the government's existing two-year election commitment, yet there is so far no pledge for more, despite calls from states, the teachers' union and education experts to close the gap between public and private school infrastructure funding.

The states provide the bulk of public school funding, but they say the Commonwealth should re-establish a permanent dedicated fund for public capital works, as private schools have already.

Australian Education Union president Correna Haythorpe said public schools were being shortchanged when they were already grappling with <u>a national teacher</u> shortage.

"We aren't calling for Olympic pools and polo fields," she said. But "there is a huge unmet need for new and upgraded public schools for the increasingly diverse needs of students".

The projects funded under the latest public round are mostly refurbishments of toilets and playground equipment. The largest amounts, of \$1.5 million, are allocated to Cobden Primary School and George Street Primary School in Hamilton, both in western Victoria.

Meanwhile, this year's private schools program, which is ongoing, allocated \$68 million to Victorian projects, including \$1 million for the purchase of land by St Andrew's Christian College in Melbourne's eastern suburbs, which ranks among the nation's top 3 per cent of advantaged schools.

Six of the 28 projects funded under the private schools program were worth more than \$4 million and included the construction of new campuses, digital technology studios, car park extensions, a two-storey "creativity hub" and landscaping.

School Name Cobden Primary School

Location Cobden
SUF funding \$1,500,000

Project Description Refurbish and replace the school's toilets.

School Name George Street Primary School

Location Hamilton
SUF funding \$1,500,000

Project Description Refurbish the school's toilets and make them accessible, along with the supply and

installation of fencing around the oval. Replace playground.

School Name Mallacoota P-12 College

LocationMallacootaSUF funding\$1,290,451

Project Description Inclusive playground and play space.

School Name Echuca East Primary School

Location Euchuca SUF funding \$1,244,261

Project Description Demolish and replace existing west toilet block. Refurbish East toilet block.

School Name Cohuna Secondary College

Location Cohuna SUF funding \$1,242,469

Project Description Demolish and replace existing toilets and change rooms, along with repairing external

walls and refurbishment of drama room flooring.

School Name Traralgon (Liddiard Road) Primary School

Location Traralgon
SUF funding \$1,160,923

Project Description Replace student toilets.

School Name Portland Bay School

Location Portland SUF funding \$1,136,196

Project Description Refurbish and convert existing industrial laundry and storage area to working manual

activities/art classroom.

School Name Swifts Creek P-12 School

Location Swifts Creek
SUF funding \$1,025,642

Project Description Replace toilet blocks and covered verandah.

School Name Mooroopna Primary School

Location Mooroopna SUF funding \$1,021,936

Project Description	Demolition of existing verandas and internal corridor fitting on east side of Art / Administrative building.
School Name	Kilberry Valley Primary School
Location	Hampton Park
SUF funding	\$1,000,000
Project Description	Demolish and rebuild student and staff bathrooms.
School Name	Bayswater North Primary School
Location	Bayswater North
SUF funding	\$968,835
Project Description	New playground equipment and softfall, and replacement of existing hard courts.
School Name	Euroa Primary School
Location	Euroa
SUF funding	\$968,270
Project Description	Upgrades to play area with new hard and soft landscaping.
School Name	Merriang Special Developmental School
Location	South Morang
SUF funding	\$965,385
Project Description	Upgrade an existing playground in order to support inclusivity and sensory needs.
School Name	Norris Bank Primary School
Location	Bundoora
SUF funding	\$963,166
Project Description	
School Name	Yuille Park P-8 Community College
Location	Wendouree
SUF funding	\$919,576
Project Description	Replace playground, including improved drainage.
School Name	Southern Cross Primary School
Location	Endeavour Hills
SUF funding	\$903,962
Project Description	Replace hardcourt, retaining wall, fence and basketball / netball hoops.
School Name	Lindenow South Primary School
Location	Lindenow South
SUF funding	\$900,000
Project Description	A new toilet block and replace playground.

School Name Jacana School for Autism

Location Jacana
SUF funding \$884,295

Project Description Perimeter fencing replacement to include five new double gates and three new pedestrian

gates. Additionally, replacement of playgrounds 3 - 5 and repurpose existing outdoor

space into gym space.

School Name Sale College

Location Sale

SUF funding \$810,233

Project Description Refurbishment of toilets.

School Name Little Bendigo Primary School

LocationNerrinaSUF funding\$803,232

Project Description Cover existing asphalt basketball sports court with a roof and resurface the court with an

alternative surface.

School Name Maffra Secondary College

Location Maffra SUF funding \$799,249

Project Description

School Name Healesville Primary School

Location Healesville SUF funding \$740,261

Project Description Inclusive Playground and Play Space.

School Name Meadow Heights Primary School

Location Meadow Heights

SUF funding \$712,419

Project Description Refurbishment of student toilets.

School Name Moe (South Street) Primary School

Location Moe

SUF funding \$660,708

Project Description Roof repair/replacement and internal refurbishment works.

School Name Nagambie Primary School

Location Nagambie SUF funding \$643,758

Project Description	New surface for outdoor basketball courts and expansion of playground facilities. Fencing around tennis courts, and storage shed.
School Name	Walwa Primary School
Location	Walwa
SUF funding	\$612,696
Project Description	Replace hardcourt, including supporting drainage renewal works. Replace playground (including shade sail).
School Name	Woorinen District Primary School
Location	Woorinen
SUF funding	\$584,134
Project Description	New playground equipment, surface & shade sails.
School Name	Rollins Primary School
Location	Batesford
SUF funding	\$575,396
Project Description	
School Name	Merbein P-10 College
Location	Merbein
SUF funding	\$572,951
Project Description	Replace playground equipment.
School Name	Westall Primary School
Location	Clayton South
SUF funding	\$572,113
Project Description	New playground equipment and surface.
School Name	Ranfurly Primary School
Location	Mildura
SUF funding	\$552,455
Project Description	Inclusive adventure playground.
School Name	Korumburra Primary School
Location	Korumburra
SUF funding	\$540,975
Project Description	Replacement of the existing playground with a new playground.
School Name	Koondrook Primary School
Location	Koondrook
SUF funding	\$537,511
Project Description	New playground and shade sale. Including replacement of playground equipment & flooring including shades.

School Name Seymour College

LocationSeymourSUF funding\$536,765

Project Description Special ability playground.

School Name Alvie Primary School

Location Alvie
SUF funding \$508,953

Project Description

School Name Newborough East Primary School

Location Newborough SUF funding \$499,876

Project Description Refurbishment of student toilets.

School Name Sunshine Heights Primary School

Location Sunshine SUF funding \$499,851

Project Description Refurbishment of student toilets.

School Name Waubra Primary School

Location Waubra SUF funding \$499,776

Project Description Replace weatherboard façade. Removal of old floor finished with new carpets.

School Name Bendigo Primary School

Location Bendigo SUF funding \$499,644

Project Description Replace roof sheeting and rainwater goods, including associated services and

cowes/flues.

School Name Nepean Special School

LocationSeafordSUF funding\$499,446

Project Description Removing on existing brick paving and replacing with concrete.

School Name Cranbourne Primary School

LocationCranbourneSUF funding\$499,251

Project Description Refurbishing the school's toilets.

School Name Westmeadows Primary School

Location Westmeadows

SUF funding \$499,095

Project Description

School Name Magpie Primary School

Location Magpie
SUF funding \$498,499

Project Description Remove and replace an existing hard court including fencing around the area.

School Name Wangaratta Primary School

Location Wangaratta
SUF funding \$498,408

Project Description A new multi-purpose covered hardcourt, including resurfacing and installation of sporting

rings.

School Name Noble Park Secondary College

Location Noble Park
SUF funding \$498,327

Project Description Refurbishment and replacement of student toilet facilities.

School Name Apsley Primary School

Location Apsley SUF funding \$497,308

Project Description Refurbishment of student toilets.

School Name Geelong High School

LocationGeelongSUF funding\$495,446

Project Description Refurbishment of toilet facilities.

School Name Findon Primary School

Location Mill Park
SUF funding \$494,693

Project Description Refurbishment of student toilets.

School Name Mornington Secondary College

Location Mornington SUF funding \$494,417

Project Description

School Name Melrose Primary School

Location Wodonga SUF funding \$492,161

Project Description Refurbishment of student toilets to improve amenity.

School Name Oxley Primary School

Location Oxley
SUF funding \$478,188

Project Description New outdoor playground and surrounding landscaping.

School Name Linton Primary School

Location Linton
SUF funding \$477,734

Project Description Refurbish existing basketball court, including two new basketball nets, and improve

surrounding landscaping.

School Name Gladstone Park Primary School

Location Tullamarine SUF funding \$460,951

Project Description Replace playground equipment.

School Name Western Port Secondary College

Location Hastings
SUF funding \$434,713

Project Description Refurbishment of toilet block, including removing and replacing existing walls and

ceilings.

School Name Everton Primary School

Location Everton
SUF funding \$431,133

Project Description Refurbishing the school's toilets.

School Name Lyndale Greens Primary School

LocationDandenongSUF funding\$428,656

Project Description

School Name Briagolong Primary School

LocationBriagolongSUF funding\$422,735

Project Description Replace hardcourt, build an additional hardcourt, and build a new access ramp.

School Name Katamatite Primary School

Location Katamatite SUF funding \$408,065

Project Description Refurbishment of toilet amenities.

School Name Dinjerra Primary School

LocationBraybrookSUF funding\$366,504

Project Description Upgrade to Soccer Pitch and Basketball Court.

School Name Heatherwood School

LocationDonvaleSUF funding\$361,944

Project Description Refurbishment of student and staff bathrooms and toilets, including new location for

hydraulic systems and replacement of flooring in foyer.

School Name Rosedale Primary School

Location Rosedale SUF funding \$349,759

Project Description Replacement of playground.

School Name Dandenong South Primary School

Location Dandenong SUF funding \$340,611

Project Description Internal refurbishment of toilets.

School Name Altona Meadows Primary School

Location Altona Meadows

SUF funding \$277,959

Project Description

School Name Yinnar South Primary School

Location Yinnar South
SUF funding \$272,179

Project Description Replace playground equipment.

School Name Newcomb Primary School

Location Newcomb
SUF funding \$251,962

Project Description Upgrade of surface and undercover area, including turf and existing asphalt paving.

School Name Tarnagulla Primary School

Location Tarnagulla

SUF funding \$250,935

Project Description Replace playground, including improved drainage.

School Name Tyrrell College
Location Sea Lake
SUF funding \$250,000

Project Description Refurbishment of materials in Food Technology/Home Economics Room.

Chicken feed compared to the PRIVATES:

Sector Catholic

School St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Suburb WERRIBEE

Commonwealth \$5,000,000 CGP Grant

Project DescriptionConstruction of Stage 3 of a new primary school, including six general learning areas, intervention spaces, carpark extension, external sporting amenities, and associated

Intervention spaces, carpark extension, external sporting amenities, and associated

works.

Sector Catholic

School Marymede Catholic College - South Morang – Doreen Campus

Suburb DOREEN
Commonwealth \$4,500,000

Commonwealth \$\ CGP Grant

Project Description Construction of Stage 4 of new campus of a secondary college, including six science

laboratories, three digital technology studios and two product design technology workshops and associated works, student and staff amenities, and landscaping,

including oval.

Sector Catholic

School St Francis Catholic College

Suburb MELTON WEST

Commonwealth CGP Grant

\$4,500,000

Project Description Construction of Stage 2 of a new secondary college. Construction of two storey Creativity

Hub including Material Technology/Project Based Learning, Robotics, Media, Art, Visual

Communication and Design and Food Technology Rooms. External works and

landscaping.

Sector Catholic

School St Mary's College

Suburb SEYMOUR

Commonwealth CGP Grant

\$4,500,000

Project Description

Construction of a double storey Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and Senior Learning Centre for Stage 1 of the Master Plan. The scope includes nine general learning areas, specialist learning spaces, collaborative spaces, student amenities and associated works.

Sector

Catholic

School

St Peter's College

Suburb

CRANBOURNE

Commonwealth CGP Grant

\$4,500,000

Project Description

Construction of two storey Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) Centre including thirteen general learning areas, common room, internal student amenities, staff offices, lift, connecting entry to Year 12 assembly area, and associated works.

Sector

Independent

School

Good News Lutheran College - Mambourin Campus

Suburb

MAMBOURIN

Commonwealth CGP Grant

\$4,000,000

Project Description

Construction of a two storey building comprising 12 general learning areas, six shared practice rooms, administration space, staff area, three staff offices, six meeting rooms, sick bay and amenities. Installation of a lift. Construction of outdoor play area, carparking, landscaping and site services.

Sector

Catholic

School

St Thomas' School

Suburb

SALE

Commonwealth CGP Grant

\$3,664,217

Project Description

The relocation of St Thomas Primary School, Guthridge Parade, to the Sion Campus in Sale. Works include refurbishment of the previous convent and a new building including eight general learning areas.

Source: Federal government

Sector

Catholic

School

St Augustine's School

Suburb

CRESWICK

Commonwealth CGP Grant

\$3,300,000

Project Description

Demolition of administration and staff areas. Construction of two general learning areas, administration building, including lift and associated spaces.

Sector

Independent

School

Djerriwarrh Community College

13

Suburb

MELTON

Commonwealth CGP Grant

\$3,000,000

Project Description

Construction of a school building at 233 Station Road, Melton, to provide five general learning areas, eleven offices, two meeting rooms, staff room, four tutorial rooms, kitchenette, breakout spaces, sick bay, server room, storage and amenities. Installation of a lift. Demolition of existing property. Construction of a multipurpose court and seating, carpark and landscaping.

Sector

Catholic

School

St Patrick's School

Suburb

NHILL

Commonwealth CGP Grant

\$2,901,375

Project Description

Construction of general learning area, student amenities, covered outdoor area, administration area to associated spaces. Refurbishment of two general learning areas, specialist space, staff room and staff preparation area.

Sector

Independent

School

Hume Anglican Grammar Donnybrook Campus

Suburb

DONNYBROOK

Commonwealth CGP Grant

\$2,700,000

Project Description

Construction of a science technology engineering and mathematics facility to include two science rooms, an undercover learning area, maker space, project space, collaboration area, staff room, two offices and store and project space.

Sector

Independent

School

Frank Dando Sports Academy

Suburb

ASHWOOD

Commonwealth CGP Grant

\$2,400,000

Project Description

Demolition of existing building. Construction of new school to include a learning area, seminar space, collaborative and administration area, staff planning room, three offices, residents room, kitchen, multipurpose dining space, resistance area, amenities, storage and laundry area. Installation of a lift.

Sector

Independent

School

Freshwater Creek Steiner School

Suburb

FRESHWATER CREEK

Commonwealth CGP Grant

\$2,200,000

Project Description

Construction of a Year 5 and 6 classroom building to include two classrooms, entry area, breakout room, wet areas, amenities, storage and covered outdoor learning area.

Sector

Catholic

School

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

Suburb

Mickleham

Commonwealth

\$2,100,000

CGP Grant

Project Description

Construction of Stage 3 of a new primary school including general learning areas, breakout areas, administration, staff amenities, and associated spaces. Landscaping and

car parking works.

Source: Federal government

Sector Independent

School Grace Christian College Wodonga

Suburb LENEVA

Commonwealth CGP Grant

\$2,100,000

Project Description

Construction of new administration centre to extend existing facility to comprise a new reception and foyer area, five offices, sick bay, waiting room, school clothing shop, archive and printing store, cleaners store and amenities. Upgrade of electrical services and car park. Construction of bus bay at front of school. Replace colourbond roofing on

existing administration building.

Sector Independent

School Chairo Christian School Leongatha Campus

Suburb LEONGATHA st., 1,950,000

Commonwealth CGP Grant

Project Description

Construction of a senior school building to include five general purpose learning areas, student lounge area, withdrawal room, small group learning areas, staff office space, vocational kitchen space, careers office, store area and amenities. Demolition of portable

building

Sector Independent

School Cobram Anglican Grammar School

Suburb COBRAM
Commonwealth \$1,900,000

CGP Grant
Project Description

Construction of a trades centre to include open working areas for car mechanics, metal

work and timber work, classroom, store and accessible toilet.

Sector Independent

School Christian College Geelong - Surf Coast Campus

Suburb JAN JUC
Commonwealth \$1,800,000
CGP Grant

Project Description

Construction of a Year 7 building to include two general learning areas, food technology room, two design and technology rooms, two offices, outdoor studio space and amenities

Sector Independent

School Heritage College Knox
Suburb FERNTREE GULLY

Commonwealth CGP Grant

\$1,765,800

Project Description Construction of a middle school building to include four general learning areas and

breakout spaces.

Sector Catholic

School St Kieran's School

Suburb MOE

Commonwealth CGP Grant

\$1,500,000

Project Description Construction of Junior School Learning area including two foundation learning areas,

office/staff planning, small group space, collaborative area, alteration to a shade sail, and

associated spaces.

Sector Catholic

School St Paul Apostle North Schoo

Suburb ENDEAVOUR HILLS

Commonwealth CGP Grant

\$1,500,000

Project Description Demolition of performing arts building for the construction of a new performing arts

facility.

Source: Federal government

Capital Grants Program 2024 Approved Victorian Projects

Page 4 of 4

Sector Independent

School Geelong Lutheran College
Suburb ARMSTRONG CREEK

Commonwealth CGP Grant

\$1,400,000

Project DescriptionDevelopment of eastern roadway, carpark and hardstand to create additional bus and staff car access and parking. Construction of two hardcourts and associated access paths.

Sector Independent

School Gilson College - Mernda Campus

Suburb MERNDA
Commonwealth \$1,200,000

CGP Grant

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Project Description Fitout of first floor of the Middle School building to create eight general learning areas,

three meeting rooms, amenities and a staff room with kitchen.

Sector Catholic

School St Mary's School
Suburb MYRTLEFORD

Commonwealth CGP Grant

\$1,000,000

Project Description

Refurbishment of general learning areas to provide flexible learning spaces, creative learning hub, art and music spaces and associated works.

Sector

Independent

School

St Andrews Christian College

Suburb

WANTIRNA SOUTH

Commonwealth CGP Grant

\$1,000,000

Project Description

Purchase of a parcel of adjoining land.

Sector

Catholic

School

c St John's XXIII Primary School

Suburb

THOMASTOWN EAST

Commonwealth CGP Grant

\$950,000

Project Description

Refurbishment of general learning areas and associated spaces. Construction of administration building and associated spaces.

Sector

Independent

School

Harkaway Hills College

Suburb

NARRA WARREN NORTH

Commonwealth CGP Grant

\$900,000

Project Description

Construction of two classrooms, breakout rooms and veranda. Sealing of car park to meet conditions of planning permit.

Sector

Independent

School

Little Yarra Steiner School

Suburb

YARRA JUNCTION

Commonwealth CGP Grant

\$50,000

Project Description

Redevelopment of masterplan.

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