

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## CATHOLIC EDUCATION WELCOMES FUNDING COMMITMENT BY OPPOSITION

The National Catholic Education Commission has welcomed today's announcement from the Australian Labor Party that it plans to provide additional funding to school education in all Australian schools if they form the next Government.

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten and Shadow Education Minister Kate Ellis today released Labor's "Your Child. Our Future" education plan. Mr Shorten said if he becomes Prime Minister, the funding reforms outlined in the Gonski Review of Funding for Schooling will be delivered "on time and in full".

NCEC executive director Ross Fox said Catholic education has been advocating for sustainable funding that allows all schools to meet the educational needs of their students.

"Educators, schools and parents across Australia will welcome the Labor Party's announcement because the additional funding commitment would deliver certainty for schools in 2018 and 2019," Mr Fox said.

"Catholic education has been a vocal and consistent supporter of school funding that is based on the needs of students and Mr Shorten has today underlined that as a core principle of Labor's education platform.

"This commitment would deliver funding that keeps pace with school costs and needs in 2018 and 2019. It delivers on the commitment of the previous Labor Government for a six-year funding plan under the Australian Education Act.

"Ensuring a quality school education for all Australian children is an important investment in Australia's future prosperity. Sustainable school funding that follows needs across all schools, sectors and jurisdictions is important to ensure quality schooling for all.

"The NCEC welcomes Labor providing details of how it would fully fund the additional spending on education. This is important to ensure it is a realistic plan," Mr Fox concluded.