



2017 State Election Summary of Party Commitments

Election Commitment request	Liberal party response Hon. Peter Collier MLC - Minister for Education	Labor party response Hon. Sue Ellery MLC - Shadow Minister for Education	CEWA summary
<p>Will your government confirm that the longstanding agreement for the State Government to fund Catholic student places, to at least 25% of the Average Government School Recurrent Costs (AGSRC), will remain in place for the term of your government?</p>	<p>"A Liberal-led State Government will continue its commitment to provide non-government schools with funding at a rate that is at least 25% of the AGSRC"</p>	<p>"I can confirm that the longstanding funding by the state of Catholic student places to at least 25% of the AGSRC will remain in place, should we be successful"</p>	<p>Commitment met by both parties.</p>
<p>Will your government support a new annual capital grant commitment of \$40million per annum over the course of the next 10 years (replacing the existing Low Interest Loan), that will enable CEWA to cater for the growth in student population, and in doing so will save the State Government \$2 billion in recurrent expenditure?</p>	<p>"If re-elected, the Liberal-led State Government will undertake a review of school planning processes to consider the demand for non-government schools, and identify appropriate funding models to support the establishment of new non-government schools"</p>	<p>"We are not able to support replacing the existing LILS with a new annual capital grant commitment of \$40 million over the next ten years" "We do however want to make a contribution to the capital works spend you outlined in your correspondence to me on 28 November 2016. So to that end, we will allocate a total of \$3 million to contribute to the upgrades and refurbishment at St Lawrence Catholic Primary in Balcatta, St Kieran's Catholic Primary in Tuart Hill and Sacred Heart Primary School in Highgate. "As we had an earlier policy discussion about extending the period of time within which any monies loaned through the LILS must be expended, I can also advise that a McGowan government will extend that period to 10 years."</p>	<p>CEWA is disappointed that neither party acknowledges the benefit of longer-term capital funding strategy to support both CEWA and a future State Government fiscal outlook. CEWA acknowledges and appreciates the specific additional funding allocations committed by Labor and the extension provided to LILS agreements. CEWA notes that the Liberal party has pledged to spend \$560 million on capital works for government schools following the proposed sale of Western Power, but no additional capital expenditure on Catholic schools.</p>
<p>Will your government increase the funding available to provide additional psychologists in Catholic schools, to represent a ratio more in keeping with government schools, and in doing so deliver annual indexation on the funding amount?</p>	<p>"In addition to (AGSRC) capital funding, the State Government has provided nearly \$6 million in supplementary funding for psychology services in Catholic schools since January 2015. A further \$2.4 million is due to be provided in 2017-18. The service level agreement which governs this funding is due to expire on 30 June 2018. If re-elected, the Liberal-led State Government will establish a new agreement, effective from 1 July 2018, which will include provision for annual indexation."</p>	<p>"Given the state of the state's finances as referred to earlier, we are unable to meet this request. I am committed to better collaboration and to working with Catholic education on ways to identify other solutions."</p>	<p>Existing Liberal Government support is noted and welcomed by CEWA, together with the reiteration of additional support forecast over next two years.</p>



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Will your government establish a cross-sectoral committee to plan for new government and non-government schools in WA?	<p>“It is important that both government and non-government stakeholders work together to plan for the further development of the non-government school sector. If re-elected, the Liberal-led State Government will review the process for the planning of non-government schools, to ensure it supports the strategic development of the non-government school sector to meet the needs of the WA community.”</p>	<p>“A McGowan government will be committed to better cross-sectoral collaboration....while I cannot give a commitment to the non-government schools sector being party to the decisions about where the government does or does not build new schools; I do genuinely believe there are far more opportunities for collaboration than are currently being exercised.”</p>	<p>Both responses reflect an appetite to consider opportunities to enhance processes in the future.</p>
Closing comments	<p>“The Liberal-led State Government has been a proud supporter of Catholic education in Western Australia over the past eight years. I look forward to this relationship continuing into the future and working with you to ensure that the Western Australian community continues to have access to a high quality and diverse education system.”</p>	<p>“If elected, I do look forward to working with Catholic Education Western Australia to achieve the very best for students across the state”</p>	



**Hon Peter Collier MLC
Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Electoral Affairs
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council**

Our ref: 34-69914

Dr Tim McDonald
Executive Director
Catholic Education Western Australia
PO Box 198
LEEDERVILLE WA 6903

Ms Siobhan Allen
President
Parents & Friends Federation of WA Inc.

Dear Dr McDonald and Ms Allen

Thank you for your letter regarding the State Government's commitments to Catholic school education in Western Australia.

The Liberal-led State Government recognises the significant contribution the Catholic school sector makes to education in Western Australia. Over \$900 million in State Government per capita grants is expected to be provided to Catholic schools in Western Australia over the next four years. In addition, over \$120 million is forecast to be provided in low interest loans over the same period, to fund capital works at Catholic schools.

A response to the issues outlined in your letter is set out below.

Election Commitment 1: Will your government confirm that the longstanding agreement for the State government to fund Catholic student places to at least 25% of the Average Government School Recurrent Cost (AGSRC) will remain in place for the term of your government?

The per-capita funding system is critical to providing Western Australian families with a diverse range of education options for their children.

If re-elected, the Liberal-led State Government will continue its commitment to provide non-government schools with funding at a rate that is at least 25% of the Average Government School Recurrent Cost (AGSRC).

Election Commitment 2: Will your government support a new annual capital grant commitment of \$40 million per annum over the course of the next 10 years (replacing the existing Low Interest Loan) that will enable CEWA to cater for the growth in student population and in doing so will save the State Government \$2 billion in recurrent expenditure?

While it is acknowledged that the Catholic education school sector in Western Australia will continue to grow, it is also recognised that the Federal Government is the majority contributor of recurrent funding to non-government schools. As such, the provision of further State funding for capital works, over and above the Low Interest Loan Scheme funding, will need to be considered in consultation with the Federal Government. If re-elected, the Liberal-led State Government will undertake a review of school planning processes to consider the demand for non-government schools and identify appropriate funding models to support the establishment of new non-government schools.

Election Commitment 3: Will your government increase the funding available to provide additional psychologists in Catholic schools, to represent a ratio more in keeping with government schools, and in doing so deliver annual indexation on the funding amount?

The Liberal-National Government acknowledges the need to provide high quality psychology services to students across all school sectors. The cost of these services within the public school sector is incorporated in the calculation of the AGSRC. As the per-capita grant funding for non-government schools is based on the AGSRC, it includes a pro-rata amount commensurate with the per-student funding for psychology services provided for public school students. Each non-government school or sector has the discretion to allocate its per-capita grant funding based on its individual needs. As you will be aware, non-government school per-capita funding has increased each year during the term of the Liberal-National Government.

In addition to the per-capita funding, the State Government has provided nearly \$6 million in supplementary funding for psychology services in Catholic schools since January 2015. A further \$2.4 million is due to be provided in 2017-18. The service level agreement which governs this funding is due to expire on 30 June 2018. If re-elected, the Liberal-led State Government will establish a new agreement, effective from 1 July 2018, which will include provision for annual indexation.

Election Commitment 4: Will your government establish a cross-sectoral committee to plan for new government and non-government schools in WA?

As the major provider of education in Western Australia, the Department of Education undertakes extensive planning for public schools in consultation with the Department of Planning and local planning authorities. In addition to the public school sector, the non-government school sector is recognised as providing schooling for a significant number of the State's children. To continue to provide families with a diverse range of educational options, it is important that both government and non-government stakeholders work together to plan for the further development of the non-government school sector.

Currently, the Non-government School Planning Advisory Panel provides advice on the need for the establishment of new non-government schools. If re-elected, the Liberal-led State Government will review the process for the planning of non-government schools, to ensure it supports the strategic development of the non-government school sector to meet the needs of the Western Australian community. This will include a review of advisory mechanisms to ensure relevant government and non-government stakeholders are represented.

The Liberal-led State Government has been a proud supporter of Catholic education in Western Australia over the past eight years. I look forward to this relationship continuing into the future and working with you to ensure that the Western Australian community continues to have access to a high quality and diverse education system.

Kind regards



Hon Peter Collier MLC
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

14 FEB 2017



Sue Ellery MLC

Member for South Metropolitan Region



Dr Tim McDonald
Executive Director
Catholic Education Office
PO Box 198
LEEDERVILLE WA 6903

Dear Tim

Thank you for your letter of 22 December 2016 regarding the state election on March 11. I am sorry it has taken so long to reply and I do appreciate your patience.

WA Labor recognises the important contribution made by Catholic Education to Western Australia's education system, that contribution is deeply valued. Across our suburbs and towns the Catholic Education sector is offering parents choice and high quality education.

In some of WA's most economically and socially challenged areas, the Catholic school sector is educating the most vulnerable and disadvantaged students. In other areas Catholic schools are leading innovators in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and early childhood education. The innovative work that Catholic Education is leading in design thinking for education through Studio Curious is very impressive.

A McGowan Labor government will work closely with the Catholic school sector to ensure that all WA students, whichever sector their school is within, receive the very best education.

There are areas where the Catholic, independent and public school sectors can collaborate more. Teachers across the sectors report that some of the very best professional development occurs when the teachers attending are from the different sectors, identifying classroom leadership skills that are the same for all teachers. For this reason, if elected a McGowan government will establish a cross sectoral partnership forum to meet 4 times per year, with secretariat support provided by the Department for Education Services (DES); to be attended by senior level representatives of the non-government schools sector; DES, the Department of Education and the School Curriculum and Standards Authority; chaired by the Minister for Education. The partnership forum will be for the purposes of identifying areas of common interest, particularly around professional development. The Forum is not a funding body, it is a forum to identify areas of collaboration; it is not an industrial body; nor will it set government policy. It is, however, about facilitating joint work on improving education for all students across WA.

I do appreciate that a key issue for Catholic Education is recurrent and capital funding. Indeed this is an area where the current government's lack of sound financial management has meant the state's budget is under considerable pressure and this means it will be very difficult for an incoming government. I can confirm that the longstanding funding by the state of Catholic student places to at least 25% of the Average Government School Recurrent Costs will remain in place, should we be successful. However, we are not able to support replacing the existing Low Interest Loans Scheme (LILS) with a new annual capital grant commitment of \$40million over the next ten years. Mark McGowan has made it clear that our promises need to be affordable and given the imperative to get the government's finances back into reasonable

shape; we cannot afford to commit to that proposal. We do however want to make a contribution to the capital works spend you outlined in your correspondence to me on 28 November 2016. So to that end we will allocate a total of \$3million to contribute to the upgrades and refurbishment at St Lawrence Catholic Primary in Balcatta, and St Kieran's Catholic Primary in Tuart Hill and Sacred Heart Primary School in Highgate. In addition and still in the capital works space, as we had an earlier policy discussion about extending the period of time within which any monies loaned through the LILS must be expended, I can also advise that a McGowan government will extend that period to 10 years.

In respect to your request for new additional funding to pay for additional psychologists in Catholic schools, given the state of the state's finances as referred to earlier, we are unable to meet this request. I am committed to better collaboration and to working with Catholic education on ways to identify other solutions.

A McGowan government will be committed to better cross-sectoral collaboration. I hope that the collaborative partnership forum I outlined earlier gives us the opportunity to identify areas where we can work more closely together. I am not in a position to agree now on the full terms of reference of that forum; I believe the forum should itself reach agreement on that within the parameters I have set out. While I cannot give a commitment to the non-government schools sector being party to the decisions about where the government does or does not build new schools; I do genuinely believe there are far more opportunities for collaboration than are currently being exercised.

If elected, I do look forward to working with Catholic Education Western Australia to achieve the very best for students across the state.

Yours sincerely



Sue Ellery MLC

Shadow Minister for Education

16 FEB 2017