

3 April 2020

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Families,

On behalf of everyone involved in Catholic education in the Diocese of Lismore, I want to reassure you of our unwavering support, particularly during these unusual and uncertain times. The last few weeks have witnessed many parents and carers in our school communities lose jobs or reduced working hours, and for others, they have experienced business downturn or closure for an undefined period of time.

As Bishop Greg reminds us 'The Catholic school is open to all who want to share its educational and faith goals inspired by Christian principle. Most importantly, there is a special place in parish schools for those with the greatest need, especially in areas of less educational options or lower socio-economic circumstances, and efforts should be made to encourage such enrolments'.

Therefore, in regards to school fees and in consideration of the Bishop's comments and our own commitment as Catholic educators, the following measures will apply:

- School fees across the Diocese, including the Building Levy, will be waived for recipients of Centrelink Job Seeker payments in 2020.
- Any family experiencing hardship at this time may apply for deferral of school fees, including the Building Levy payment, for four months. This includes those on payment plans.
- No payment request will be made in relation to unpaid fees to any family for four months.

Please contact your school or Parish Office to discuss your circumstances and options.

Once again, I thank you for your continued support. I will continue to keep you updated as the need arises.

Yours sincerely,



Sally Towns  
*Director of Catholic Schools*