

Choice and Affordability Fund

2024 Annual Report – Catholic Archdiocese of
Canberra and Goulburn Education Limited



NGRB Ongoing Compliance Declaration

Section 92 of the *Australian Education Act 2013* (the Act) outlines the basic requirements for approval of a non-government representative body for a non-government school.

As such, the Department of Education is seeking confirmation that Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Education Limited complies with the legislative requirements in relation to monitoring the body's compliance with the Act.

Confirmation you continue to meet basic requirements for approval

Body corporate

The Trustees for Catholic Education Office Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn is registered with the ACNC (ABN 47 824 127 996) and continues to meet the requirements for registration as required by the ACNC.

From 1 January 2025 the operations of Catholic Education Office of Canberra and Goulburn will transition to a new incorporated entity, Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Education Limited (ABN 60 675 797 734). The new incorporated entity is registered with the ACNC.

Not-for-profit (NFP)

The Trustees for Catholic Education Office Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn meet the requirements as a not-for-profit entity as the organisations assets and income of the organisation are applied solely to further the advancement of education or are incidental to this purpose and no portion of these have been distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the organisation except as genuine compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the Catholic Education Office. The Trustees for Catholic Education Office Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn continue to comply with the six ACNC governance standards

Financial viability

The operational status of the Trustees for Catholic Education Office Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn continue to be managed appropriately and within the risk management and other financial policies of the organisation. No matter as outlined under Section 27 of the *Education Regulations 2023* have been identified as an issue for the Catholic Education Office noting that the operations will transition to Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Education Limited (ABN 60 675 797 734) as outlined above.

Fit and proper person

The management and staff of the Trustees for Catholic Education Office Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn continue to meet the requirements of 'fit and proper' persons and act in accordance with ACNC governance standard five. No matter as outlined under Section 28(2) of the *Education Regulations 2023* have been identified as applying to persons employed by the Catholic Education Office.

The new Board of Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Education Limited (ABN 60 675 797 734) have been assessed as meeting the requirements of 'fit and proper' persons under Section 75(5) of the *Australian Education Act 2013*.

NGRB Annual Report Sign Off

This annual report is submitted in fulfillment of the annual report requirements in sections 50, 51 and 52 of the CAF Guidelines.



Name: Wynand Janse van Rensburg

Position: Acting Chief Financial Officer

Date: 23 June 2025

Signed on behalf of The Trustees for Catholic Education Office Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn (the NGRB).

Summary of 2024

With all schools now on a consolidated financial platform, the implementation of a revised fee structure across the Trustees for Catholic Education Office Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn (CECG) schools was implemented for 2024.

As a result of these changes, CECG assessed the impact of the fee changes across our schools and the impact to our families. As part of the funding model review and to ensure these changes did not adversely impact our families, utilisation of the funding provided to date was implemented. This includes providing relief for families impacted by changes to the fee structure to ensure these students can continue to receive the benefits of the teaching support and facilities offered by our schools.

Further changes will be implemented in 2025 with transition assistance as outlined in the CAF agreement of 2020.

Risk Management

Risk	How the risk will be managed
The impact of higher inflation disproportionately impacting CECG costs with limited capacity to raise tuition fees above current CPI levels.	Implementing use of CAF funding ahead of the initially proposed 2025-2029 period, and to maintain tight cost controls.
Reduction in recurrent funding for ACT Catholic schools due to higher DMI rate.	CAF transition funding is reserved for future years (2024-2029), assisting schools to remain financially sustainable and keeping tuition fee increases to a minimum.

Activity Report

Through 2024, CECG has undertaken specific initiatives based on the financial transformation implementation providing detailed information on school finances and funding pressures. A review of our ACT schools funding models was completed and a program of support initiatives developed.

The phased approach under the initiatives will provide assistance to families and schools under priorities A & B as identified in the original Choice and Affordability Fund workplan.

CECG has not been funded for any transition assistance for regional schools for our ACT schools.

Activity/Initiative Priority	Name
	A – Choice and Affordability
	B – Transition Assistance
	C – Special Circumstances Funding
	D – Strengthening outcomes for schools and educationally disadvantaged schools and students
	E – Student wellbeing and support

Activity Description

The activities undertaken by CECG will currently fall under two of the CAF priority areas, Choice and Affordability and Transition Assistance. Details of the activities under each are provided below:

A - Choice and affordability of schools

Further initiatives are being developed to support CECG families and maintain school enrolments. These support strategies will be implemented for 2025 and were developed over the year based on the data and feedback from both school principals and families.

B - Transition assistance

As identified in prior year reports, the implementation of the financial transition support across our ACT schools commenced in 2024. The transition support provided will be phased through the funding period to 2029 and is targeted across families adversely impacted by systemic fee changes.

In addition to the fee support provided to our families, CECG is also implementing improvements in financial governance processes across the school system. These changes will enhance current financial processes and provide additional data to support current school business models and lead to more targeted transition support where needed.

Outcomes Achieved

Outcomes	Indicators of success
Support to school families has been provided through the consolidated data now available to ensure enrolment levels are maintained.	Based on the census and internal data available, the retention of students has been stabilised
Governance and reporting processes have been developed and assist schools to develop sustainable business models.	CECG is utilising the consolidated financial data now available to identify and support schools who face sustainability challenges.

Activity Expenditure

	Centralised (Reporting Year Only)	Distributed (Reporting Year Only)
Expenditure	\$220,241	\$2,244,097

The centralised funding represents part of the administration costs of the initiatives and the system changes required to track the support provided.