

# CATHOLIC SCHOOL FEE DISCOUNTS



**For families with more than one child in primary and/or secondary Catholic schools in the Cairns Diocese, attend a country school, or hold a Health Care or Pensioner Concession card.**

## Why do Catholic schools have fees?

To provide quality learning environments, Catholic schools have fees to help meet the shortfall in government funding provided to students in government schools. Catholic schools strive to keep fees as low as possible.

The term 'school fees' includes tuition fees and levies. Each school assesses the school levies necessary to meet their individual school and community operation requirements.

In doing this they are firstly guided by the tuition fee set by Catholic Education Services.

## How do I enrol my child in a Catholic school?

Parents/carers are encouraged to contact the Principal of their preferred Catholic school to find out about their enrolment procedures and what information is required to complete the enrolment application (eg: birth certificate, baptism certificate, school reports and academic records if applicable). Enrolment applications are accepted at any time and can be made online from a school's website, for more than one school.

Schools may not always be able to accept every family who applies, due to the availability of places. The Principal is then guided by Cairns Catholic Education's enrolment policy and the school may have waiting lists.

## Multi-student/school family discount

Families with more than one child in the same or other primary or secondary Catholic schools in the Cairns Diocese receive fee discounts for the second, third and subsequent children. This information is collected by the school at the time of enrolment and the discount is automatically applied.

## Country area discount

Schools in more remote, country areas also qualify for a further Country discount. This discount automatically applies at the time of enrolment. Country schools are listed on the Cairns Catholic Education schedule of fees.

## Pensioner and health care card holder fee discount

In addition to family and country school discounts, Cairns Catholic Education offers a means-tested concession card discount. Parents/carers with a current means-tested Australian government health care or pensioner concession card are eligible to receive a **70%\*** discount to tuition fees (does not apply to school levies).

Card holders are required to advise the school of their concession card at enrolment or when the card is gained. Once the card is sighted by the school's administration, tuition fees for future terms will be adjusted. This scheme is intended to assist those families who genuinely do not have the financial capacity to pay tuition fees in full.

## Special consideration

Families without a means-tested concession card who are experiencing genuine financial hardship in paying fees should speak with their school Principal or Parish Priest to apply for special consideration. These requests are treated with respect, dignity and confidentiality.

No child will be denied enrolment due to genuine financial difficulty which has been verified by the school. Catholic schools balance the need to charge fees with their historic role of providing access to quality schooling for all.

**\* In response to the economic impacts of COVID-19, the 70% discount has been increased to 100% and a range of additional fee concessions have been fast tracked to commence from the start of Term 2, 2020 and can be applied retrospectively to Term 2 Fees at any point. Two new concession card categories eligible for the 100% discount are the Job Seeker Payment (JSP) and the Farm Household allowance (FH). For those yet to receive their cards, schools will accept as proof the digital version of the card from the MyGov app or a printed confirmation page from Centrelink. In addition, all fee payers that are Carer, Disability and Mobility card holders are now eligible regardless of their relationship status.**