

**Media statement
26 March 2020**



Catholic schools, fee support and ongoing education delivery

Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) is committed to supporting school families experiencing financial stress and guaranteeing enrolment of students despite the financial situation of their families.

CEWA's Health Care Card Discount Scheme provides an automatic fee concession, which applies to all year levels from Kindergarten to Year 12.

Families experiencing financial hardship who are not eligible for the health care card discount are encouraged to contact their school to discuss additional affordability measures.

CEWA Executive Director, Dr Debra Sayce, said that while parents were being asked to keep their children home wherever possible from Friday, 26 March, school staff would be working hard to support their learning.

"Catholic schools across WA are now enacting their remote education delivery plans, which have been developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic," Dr Sayce said.

"While the current situation is changing the way our schools partner with parents in the delivery of a Catholic education, school staff are adapting to the current context to provide rich and engaging learning activities and strong pastoral support with the technology now available,"

Catholic Education Western Australia Executive Director, Dr Debra Sayce said, "We know that we are living through an unprecedented time in our history and that the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 virus has been significant. Some parents in our school have lost their jobs and many families are facing significant financial stress,"

"The ongoing enrolment of every child in Catholic schools in Western Australia is guaranteed irrespective of a family's financial situation," she stated.

"Our school staff will continue to work on delivering education to students now, and preparing to reengage them in classrooms when the risk to our communities of COVID-19 has passed."

ENDS

Media Contact

Catholic Education Western Australia

08 6380 5153

0416 836 919

simone.warden@cewa.edu.au