ISSUE 3-5

13th September, 2007

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our Vision
Mercy Regional College serves a wide rural community which values growth and diversity in Catholic Education in the Mercy tradition.

Our Mission
In the Spirit of the Gospels we commit ourselves to the core values of community, inclusiveness, learning, care, justice and mercy, excellence and achievement.

Our Focus for 2007
Community
Through the Mercy tradition we promote the uniqueness of the community and its heritage.

Australian Parents Council
The Australian Parents Council is a national federation of organisations representing parents of non-government school students. The mission of the Australian Parents Council is to promote choice and quality in schooling, the equitable distribution of government funds for schooling, and effective partnerships to maximise schooling outcomes. The work of the Australian Parents Council is underpinned by the following principles:

- Parents are the primary educators of their children
- Parents have the right to choose the type of schooling that best suits their children
- Governments are obliged to support parents’ capacity to exercise their right to choice of schooling
- All students have a right to access and receive a quality education to enable them to attain their potential
- All students have the right to an equitable share of government funding for their schooling
- The student, not the school, must be the focus for the allocation of government funds for schooling
- Effective partnerships with and between parents, school communities and school authorities are central to the success of schooling outcomes
- The APC is committed to supporting and nurturing affiliates and like-minded parent groups to develop and strengthen their voices.

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of the 2007 Federal Election paper developed by the Australian Parents Council. This paper presents detailed information about how non-government schools are funded. I have also included a copy of the Myth Buster Card which counters the many fallacies surrounding non-government schools.

VCE Students
On Wednesday our Year 12 students completed a 3 hours trial English Exam at the Uniting Church Hall. This is one of many additional classes, revision times, lectures and holiday tutorials that will be occurring prior to the commencement of VCE exams. It also highlights the fact that the final VCE exams will soon be upon our Year 12 students and that rigorous and diligent study routines should now be commonplace at home.

I take this opportunity of thanking our Year 12 teachers who are ensuring that our students are well prepared for the exams.

Car Raffle
Saturday 1st September marked the beginning of the 33rd year of the Mercy Regional College Car Raffle. The car raffle is certainly now the most important fund raising effort of our PTFA and particularly important this year with our building redevelopment program well under the way. Raffle books and rosters for selling tickets have been distributed.
This year’s prizes are as follows:

1st Prize: 2007 CL Ford Focus Sedan valued at $27,955 including on road costs (Auto, prestige paint, air conditioning, power steering, cruise control CD player, and ABS) supplied courtesy of Manifold Motors

2nd Prize: Travel Voucher valued at $2000 supplied courtesy of Harvey World Travel, Camperdown

3rd Prize: Electrical Goods Voucher valued at $1000 supplied courtesy of Camperdown Retravision

4th Prize: Jewellery Voucher valued at $200 supplied courtesy of Showcase Jewellers, Camperdown and Colac.

5th Prize: Dinner Voucher valued at $100 supplied courtesy of Maddern’s Bar & Bistro, Camperdown

This year we have selected a more fuel efficient car which will ensure the running costs for the eventual winner will be more economical. Along with this change we have also increased the value of the travel voucher by $1000 and added a new prize, a $1000 electrical goods voucher from Camperdown Retravision.

The College is indeed grateful to our abovementioned suppliers of raffle prizes for their generosity. Where possible it would certainly be appreciated if our school community could support these businesses.

I look forward to a very successful car raffle result, which can be easily achieved if all families work together to sell their book of raffle tickets and assist with the selling roster.

Office Hours during Term Holidays
During the term holidays, the College Office will be closed in the first week of the holidays and then open in the second week for limited hours. These hours will be from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

School Uniform & Hats
A reminder to all parents that the summer uniform is to be worn during term 4 and that part of the summer uniform is the requirement that all students must wear the approved College hat when in the sun. The College hat is available from our uniform suppliers.

End of Term Arrangement
Term 3 classes will conclude at 2.10pm this Friday and Mid Semester Reports will be posted home to parents. Term 4 for Year 11 and 12 students commences on Monday 8th October and Year 7 – 10 students commence on Tuesday 9th October. I wish all families a very safe and enjoyable holiday and I look forward to commencing term 4 in a couple of weeks.

Coming Events

Friday 21st September
- Term 3 concludes at 2.10pm
- Year 7 – 10 Interim Reports mailed out

Monday 8th October
- VCE students commence Term 4

Tuesday 9th October
- Year 7 – 10 students commence Term 4

Wednesday 10th October
- Country Kids Transition Day

Andrew Watson
Principal

Mercy Awards

VCE (Yr 11 & 12) Mercy Award
Emma Brewer and Melanie Van den Eynde for their community service.

Middle School (Yr 9 & 10) Mercy Award
Chris Jehu for his supportive work with students during the recent cycling event.

Junior School (Yr 7 & 8) Mercy Award
Macauley Bambirdge for his willingness to help others and his positive involvement in the Year 7 Retreat.
WORLD YOUTH DAY 2008

CELEBRATIONS

Everyone is invited to gather at St Thomas’ on Sunday October 21 at 10.00am to celebrate and prepare for World Youth Day. After Mass you’re invited to stay on for lunch to find out more information on how you can participate in this once in a lifetime opportunity. For more information about World Youth Day, log on to: www.wyd2008.org and contact Leesa Henriksen at: lhenriksen@stthomas.balrt.catholic.edu.au

From the Head of Science

John Houlihan

Science Week 2007: Science Week at Mercy was a great success with students, staff and parents being offered a variety of activities to participate in throughout the duration of the week. Some of the activities included:

Year 9 Tower Hill Excursion: Enabled students to explore one of our magnificent local ecosystems and gain an insight into aboriginal culture. It was also an opportunity for students to witness the effect that the lack of rain has had on the varieties and numbers of fauna present in this ecosystem. James, Peter and Robert of the Wangadidj people taught the students how to throw Boomerangs, play aboriginal games and how to survive being lost in the bush by using local trees for food and medicine. The Black Wattle trees’ sap was tried by some of the students and staff. It is used for treating toothache, sore throats and colds. The Kangaroo apple tree produces a fruit that when ripe and orange in colour and is delicious to eat. Students then focused on a number of other ‘Science of Bush’ activities throughout the remainder of the week.

Afternoon Tea with a Science theme: (including an Antartic cake, star biscuits and cup cakes with the elements of the periodic table!). Guests included Rick and Pat Robertson from Camperdown. This occasion provided a wonderful opportunity to recognise the efforts of Rick and Pat, who through Rotary, have financially sponsored a number of Mercy students. This has enabled students to attend science events such as the Siemens Science Experience and the National Youth Science Forum.

Science Competition: Those students who achieved outstanding academic excellence in the University of New South Wales competition being recognised at a whole school assembly.

Astronomy Night at the McAuley Campus: Mercy was fortunate enough to offer an unique opportunity for students and their families to explore, discuss and view the night sky. A small but enthusiastic gathering braved the cold winter winds to familiarize themselves with our solar system.

Barry Coverdale and Tricia Klemm, who are members of the South West Astronomy Group, facilitated the night. They conducted a Power Point presentation on astronomy followed by questions from the audience.

Participants were then given the chance to view the night sky using telescopes provided by the facilitators (however bad weather on the night wasn’t in our favour).

The night whilst being educational, was also an opportunity for an informal social activity, which allowed fostered relationships between students, staff, parents and the wider community of MRC.

Science movies at lunchtime: with complimentary popcorn provided!!

A range of science classroom activities for Years 7 - 8: with a focus on Antartic Science.

Rockets: Mr Ludeman and Year 12 Physics students launched a number of rockets on the front school oval.

Daffodil Day: Students and staff dressed in Yellow on the Friday of Science Week to help support / raise money for much needed scientific cancer research with all money raised being donated to the Cancer Council of Victoria. Thank you to all the support of the SRC for coordinating this event and the Social Justice Committee for selling daffodil merchandise prior to the day.

St Thomas Primary School Science experience (grades prep, 1 and 2): St Thomas students experienced life as a young scientist with the aid of Mercy year 8 buddies under the direction of science teacher Mrs Mel Kavanagh. All students were dressed in scientific clothing (lab coats and safety glasses) and performed a variety of scientific experiments using equipment such as Bunsen burners and test tubes. The student also had an opportunity to undertake some Physical Education activities with Mr Darren Cheeseman and a number of Year 7 students.
From the Head of Maths
Leanne Carpenter

Early this term 236 students from across years 7 to 12 participated in “The Australian Mathematics competition for the Westpac Awards 2007”. The competition consists of a series of intriguing and challenging problems, which the students solve. The students at MRC performed admirable with 11 students receiving distinctions and 62 students receiving credits. Congratulations go to the following distinction Recipients, Kiara Williams, Jocelyn McDonald, Elliot Pyke, Simone Fleming, Thomas Skene, Connor Saunders, Karli Wetemans, Genevieve Darcy, George McMeel, Natalie Fleming and Hugh Saunders. A Special mention goes to Jac Domney, who received the Prudence Award. Jac achieved the schools highest number of consecutive correct answers.

On the 31st August ten year 10 students travelled to Geelong to participate in the “Deakin University Year 10 Mathematics Competition”. The day involved the students competing in teams of 5, with activities such as Quizzes, Maths relays, etc. The two teams from MRC performed admirably, finishing in 17th and 18th places. Special mention goes to Hugh Saunders whose individual result placed him in 14th position, with Matt Hinkley not far behind.

PE Excursion to Ballarat
Report by: Pip Rounds & Lisa Woodmason

On Thursday 13th September the Year 11 PE class went to the University of Ballarat for an excursion. When we arrived we were able to watch some of the Uni students perform a VO2 max test. This is something we’ve been focussing on in PE in the past few weeks. Ben Moloney and Bernard McLeod then had a turn of being able to measure their VO2 max but on bikes – a less accurate version. Soon after that we had lunch and got to look around the Uni.

Once lunch finished we participated in a number of activities to measure our fitness, such as the verticle jump, leg muscle power, throwing speed and how fast we could run in 10m. Martin Sargeant was then lucky enough to get the chance to test his own VO2 max using the proper equipment. This test would usually cost up to $200 for an athlete wanting to take the test. After the fitness testing we left the stadium to go and look at kadarvas. This was very helpful for what we’ve been learning about in anatomy and the cardiovascular system.

It was a great opportunity to see the bodies and go on the trip so thankyou to Mr. Castles for taking us, Danny for driving the bus and the Ballarat Uni for having us there for the day.

(see photos from the day on opposite side)
Doxa Cadetship Program

What is a DOXA Cadetship
There are four key objectives behind the Cadetship
1. To provide academic opportunity and support leading to university success
2. To provide a program for professional development
3. To provide opportunities for the development of work related skills
4. To enhance each cadet’s opportunity for graduate career employment with their sponsor company

A DOXA Cadet receives
- Financial support
- Assistance with purchasing university textbooks and materials
- Quality work experience with their sponsor company
- Involvement within a personal and professional development program

Applicants must be current Victorian Year 12 students who will commence university studies in the following year, hold Australian citizenship and be socially and financially disadvantaged and need support to undertake University studies. Each cadetship opportunity is offered in conjunction with a sponsor company. Some sponsor companies are definite about the specific degrees they want a cadet to pursue, other companies are more flexible. The current cadets are studying a range of degrees, single or combined, including social & environmental science, applied science, law, arts, commerce, transport & logistics management, economics, business, computing, engineering, accounting, public relations, human resources, psychology, arts, urban planning and architecture. Three past students from Mercy Regional College have obtained these cadetships. More information about DOXA can be found at www.doxa.org.au or phone Bobbi Cheetham on 9532 1460.

Australian Technical College (ATC) for 2008
Just a reminder if any student is considering applying to do an ASBA through the ATC next year they need to get their application forms in. Could you also catch up with Mrs Pope regarding your application - so she is aware what students are up to in 2008. The ATC will be conducting student interviews during the holiday break. This means less disruption to the school program in term 4. They are also able to offer students interested in the allied trades the options of bricklaying, plastering, painting & decorating and tiling. Students should use the normal application form and process to apply.

Monash University
Monash University Peninsula invites all Year 10, 11 and 12 students to experience the Peninsula campus during September school holidays Visit www.monash.edu.au/study/events/experience to book online. Great idea to experience uni life.

Seas and Residence Applications
Year 12’s...Check you have completed your SEAS Applications (Close 12th Oct at 5pm) and Residence applications (Check individual residences for closing times)

University of Ballarat
The field of professional sport management, both in the not-for-profit and commercial sporting sectors, is growing considerably. Skilled graduates with an understanding of the broad principles associated with sport and recreation, as well as the management of organisations, personnel and facilities are highly sought after. The University of Ballarat's Bachelor of Sport Management aims to develop such graduates. For more information about this course contact the University of 5327 9697 or go to www.ballarat.edu.au/hmss

Gordon Institute of TAFE
The Gordon Institute offers the following courses:
- Bachelor of Arts (Visual Arts)
  - Advanced Diploma of Computer Systems Engineering
- Diploma of Technology
  - Diploma of Information Technology (Website Development)
- Advanced Diploma of Information Technology
  - Diploma of Arts (Graphic Arts) (Network Security)
  - Advanced Diploma of Multimedia
- Diploma of Music
  - Advanced Diploma of Music
- Certificate II in Multimedia (Digital Video Stream)
  - Certificate II in Multimedia (Web Design Stream)
- Certificate III in Multimedia
  - Certificate IV in Music

For additional information visit the website www.gordontafe.edu.au or Phone: 5225 0771 or email art-design@gordontafe.edu.au

Blarney Bakehouse
Blarney Bakehouse is offering a twelve month Traineeship in 2008 for Certificate II in Food Processing and Retail Operations. This traineeship would be suitable for Year 12 students who are deferring for twelve months. More details can be obtained from Brendan or Beth on 5592 1711.

Scholarships
Check out the VTAC guide for details of scholarships at all institutions.
Some details of scholarships for the major universities are listed below:

University of Melbourne
http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/scholarships/ugrad/
Monash University (offer $30m annually)
http://www.monash.edu.au/scholarships
La Trobe University
http://www.latrobe.edu.au/scholarships
University of Ballarat
Deakin University

For more information on Careers, application forms, etc. Please see Mrs. Lisa Pope.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Combined Schools Red Carpet Formal
Terang Civic Hall, this Friday 21st September 8pm - 12pm.
Organised by Awkwards Silence Youth Productions
BUS TIMES: Timboon shopping centre 6.50 pm
Cobden post office 7.30 pm
Camperdown clock tower 7.30 pm
All Yr 9,10,11 & 12 students should have received their invitations. Entry is by presentation of your invitation only. Please contact Vicki after hours on 0407331966 if you have not received your invitation. Please note: Bus seats are limited. Make sure you read the conditions of entry printed on the back of your invitation before you attend the event.

Centenary Cabaret
Warrnambool & District Pipe Band present their Centenary Cabaret featuring “The Borderers” on Saturday 22nd September 8pm – Midnight.
Brauer College Hall, Caramut Rd Warrnambool
Tickets $30 ea (or $280 for reserved table of 10)
Enquiries to Leanne 5562 3663
BYO Drinks & Nibble (Tea/Coffee/Light Supper provided)
Prize on the night for best Celtic theme table Lucky door & raffles on the night. Witness a ceremonial Ode of the Haggis.

Terang Turf Club
Cricket Training
U12 on Tuesday Oct 9 4pm - 5.30pm
U/16 Thursday Sept 20 4pm - 5.30pm

Cobden Spring Festival
- Biggest Pet, Smallest Pet, Best dressed Pet
- Most Unusual Pet, Best Behaved Pet
- Pet most like its owner
Prizes in all categories.

Camperdown Golf Club
Invites interested Junior boys and girls to join our first round of golf on Sunday Oct 14 9.30am Cost $3
All levels of ability welcome. We will also be having Craig Bonney, a golf Professional from Warrnambool to conduct lessons on Friday Oct 12 from 4pm. Cost $5 per person. Booking required. For further information and bookings call Jenny or Michael O’Neil on 5593 2418.

Camperdown Little Athletics
Is back on for season 2007-08!
For Girls and Boys, 5—16 years old
Registration Day & Free Sausage Sizzle
Saturday 22nd Sept. IGA Supermarket Camperdown.
10am-12 noon. Cost. $80 per athlete, payable at registration.
Practice / Try Out sessions,
Friday 28th Sept & 5th October, 4.30pm- 6pm
Comp Starts on Friday 12th Oct (1st Fri of Term 4)
For additional information, contact:
Ross McIlveen (V-Pres) 0419341122
Sue Stevens (Sec) 52352588
Di Ovens (Registrar) 0407252256

Camperdown Theatre
Upcoming Movies for the school holidays
Die Hard 4
- Sunday 21st September 6.00pm
Amazing Grace
- Sunday 23rd September 1.30pm
- Camperdown Uniting Church Fundraiser
The Simpsons Movie
- Friday 28th September 1.30pm
- School Holiday Matinee
I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry
- Thursday 4th October 7.00pm
The Bourne Ultimatum
- Friday 12th October 7.30pm

Corangamite Shire
School Holiday Program
Trip 1
- Melbourne Show
- Wednesday 26th September
- Cost $25
Trip 2
- Movie Day - The Simpsons & Lunch Theatre Royal
- Friday 28th September
- Cost $12
Trip 3
- Anaconda Adventure Centre & Shopping Geelong
- Thursday 4th October
- Cost $20
- 20 places only 1st in best dressed

If anyone is interested in participating in any of the above programs, please pick up a booking sheet from the school office.
2007 FEDERAL ELECTION
the obligation of governments to support parental choice in schooling

APC SEEKS COMMITMENTS AROUND KEY EDUCATION ISSUES
Australia needs strong, well-resourced government and non-government schools. The percentage of Australia's GDP allocated by governments to schooling must be increased until it is sufficient to ensure adequate funding for school education.

- NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL STUDENTS

Funding Entitlement for Every Student
The funding entitlement of every non-government school student must be increased until: 1) it equates to and is set at a realistic percentage of the total real cost of educating a student in a government school at an equivalent level of schooling; and 2) it is adequate to provide for the differing educational needs of students and the needs of their school communities. The funding entitlement must continue to be indexed to annual movements in average government school recurrent cost.

Specific Funding for Significant Needs
Students with significant disabilities attending non-government schools must be funded at a base level which is at least three times the maximum public funding level payable under the SES funding model.

Students who attend non-government schools with significant numbers of Indigenous students must receive a base funding entitlement set at the maximum public funding level available under the SES funding model to support their educational needs and those of their school communities.

Students who attend non-government schools in remote areas must receive the maximum general recurrent funding available under the SES funding model, in addition to any other funding entitlements, to help offset the high costs of their education.

Increase in Capital Funding
Commonwealth funding for non-government school buildings and facilities must be increased to provide for the growth needs in the sector and significant increases in construction costs.

- ALL SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH PARTICULAR NEEDS

Indigenous Students
Unacceptable disadvantage remains for Indigenous students. A significant, strategic injection of funding, resources and professional expertise is required to address the diverse needs of Indigenous students.

Students with Disabilities
Students with disabilities in all schools must be provided with equity and real choice in their schooling. As a minimum, existing benchmarks must be used to facilitate immediate significant increases in funding for students with disabilities in mainstream and special schools.

Rural and Remote Students
Additional emergency financial assistance is needed for schooling in times of Exceptional Circumstance. The parameters of Exceptional Circumstances funding need to be revisited to better meet the needs of affected students, their families and their school communities.

Accommodation and transport need to be accepted by governments as a necessary access to all levels of education for rural, remote and isolated students.

Safe bus travel needs to be considered a federal as well as a state/territory issue.

- TRUE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL COSTS

All Governments must publish complete and accurate information on the total real costs of schooling children at government schools. The total costs of school education expended from all sources should be published (State, Territory and Australian Governments, parent fees, levies and fundraising).

- CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Australian and State and Territory governments must enter into costs sharing contractual arrangements to provide adequate public funding for all Australian school students.

- FAMILY/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

A specific funding strategy is required to embed family/school partnerships into the Australian schooling culture.

In this context, APC specifically seeks commitment for continued funding beyond 2007 of its highly successful parent partnership project Successful Learning in the Early Years of Schooling: The Indigenous Parent Factor.

- PARENTS ENGAGING WITH SCHOOLS FOR THE FIRST TIME

Funding is required to further develop and implement programs to welcome and engage first-time parents in schools and school education. An area of particular focus should be parents of school-aged children who are newly arrived from overseas countries where schooling culture and language are vastly different to those in Australia.

- EARLY LEARNING

The years from birth to age five are a critical period of development. Governments must ensure that every child has the opportunity to access a quality early childhood learning experience involving their parents and qualified early childhood teaching professionals.
WHO PAAYS FOR SCHOOLING
FOR 3,358,962 AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS?
LATEST AVAILABLE FIGURES

NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVE MUCH LESS THAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOL STUDENTS
Australian Governments spend more than an average of $10,700 per annum per government school student, and $6,054 on average per non-government school student.

EVERY CHILD IN A NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL SAVES THE TAXPAYER MONEY
The annual savings to governments in Australia from the education of students in non-government schools is approximately $5.1 billion.

SOURCES OF RECURRENT FUNDS FOR NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS 2005
- 42.4% of the funding for their schooling, on average, is provided by the Commonwealth Government
- 15.3% is provided, on average, by State/Territory Governments
- 42.3% is provided by private sources (e.g. parent fees, levies and fundraising)


SOURCES OF RECURRENT FUNDS FOR GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS 2004-05
- 91.3% is provided by State/Territory Governments
- 8.7% of the funding for their schooling, on average, is provided by the Commonwealth Government

Note: Data are not provided by State and Territory governments in respect of government school income derived from private sources. However, it is generally estimated to be about 3% of total income.

SES FUNDING The Commonwealth Government’s Socio-Economic Status (SES) approach to funding non-government schools links Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census data to obtain a measure of the capacity of a school community to support its school. Non-government schools with an SES score of 85 or below are funded by the Commonwealth Government at 70% of AGSRC. Schools with a score of 130 or above receive 13.7% of AGSRC. Funding for schools with SES scores between 85 and 130 is paid on the following continua.

AUSTRArxian GOVERNMENT PER CAPITA RECURRENT FUNDING BY SES SCORE FOR NON-GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS 2007

AUSTRArxian GOVERNMENT PER CAPITA RECURRENT FUNDING BY SES SCORE FOR NON-GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS 2007
PUBLIC FUNDING OF STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS


1. TOTAL GOVERNMENT RECURRENT GRANTS TO GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL STUDENTS

- 78.5% spent on Government School Students $24.2 billion
- 21.5% spent on Non-Government School Students $6.6 billion

Total $30.8 billion

2. STATE/TERRITORY GOVERNMENT RECURRENT GRANTS TO GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL STUDENTS

- 92.5% $22.1 billion
- 7.5% $1.8 billion

Total $23.9 billion

3. COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT RECURRENT GRANTS TO GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL STUDENTS

- 69.5% $4.8 billion
- 30.5% $2.1 billion

Total $6.9 billion

NOTE:
Recurrent Grants: Government contribution towards the day to day running costs of a school (salaries, teaching materials, cleaning etc.).
Capital Grants: Government contribution towards school infrastructure developments that are long term assets (new buildings and facilities, redevelopment projects etc.).
AGSRC (Average Government School Recurrent Cost): The calculation used by governments to estimate the per student recurrent cost to governments of government school provision.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL STUDENTS (Recurrent, $billion)

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<th>Commonwealth Government</th>
<th>State/ Territory Govts</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government schools</td>
<td>$2.1</td>
<td>$22.1</td>
<td>$24.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Govt schools</td>
<td>$4.8</td>
<td>$1.8</td>
<td>$6.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Schools</td>
<td>$6.9</td>
<td>$23.9</td>
<td>$30.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Government funding for schools comes as an informal bundle of Commonwealth and state/territory grants. Since the 1960s the Commonwealth government has assumed the primary responsibility for providing recurrent funding to non-government schools. State and territory governments have been primarily responsible for the recurrent funding of government schools, much of which is provided out of specific purpose grants from the Commonwealth government. APC believes these arrangements must be formalised in a Commonwealth/States and Territories funding agreement (see page 1).

TOTAL COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT CAPITAL GRANTS BY SECTOR, 2005

Recurrent Funding for Government and Non-Government School Students by All Governments

Supplement to APC Review 2, 2007
THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
(Article 26)

Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
(Article 13)

Governments are required ‘to have respect for the liberty of parents ... to choose for their children schools, other than those established by the public authorities, which conform to such minimum educational standards as may be laid down or approved by the State and to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.’

MISSON STATEMENT

The Australian Parents Council, the national federation of non-government school parents’ organisations, seeks to promote choice and quality in schooling, the equitable distribution of government funds for schooling, and effective partnerships to maximise schooling outcomes.

KEY PRINCIPLES

The work of the Australian Parents Council is underpinned by the following principles:

- Parents are the primary educators of their children.
- Parents have the right to choose the type of schooling that best suits their children.
- Governments are obliged to support parents’ capacity to exercise their right to choice of schooling.
- All students have a right to access and receive a quality education to enable them to attain their potential.
- All students have the right to an equitable share of government funding for their schooling.
- The student, not the school, must be the focus for the allocation of government funds for schooling.
- Effective partnerships with and between parents, school communities and school authorities are central to the success of schooling outcomes.
- The APC is committed to supporting and nurturing affiliates and like-minded parent groups to develop and strengthen their voices.

Parents and Friends' Federation of Western Australia Inc.
www.pff.wa.edu.au

NSW Parents Council Inc.
www.parentscouncil.nsw.edu.au

Tasmanian Catholic Schools Parents and Friends Federation
www.ceo.hobart.catholic.edu.au/cspff

Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities (SA)
www.fedparents.adl.catholic.edu.au

ISPCSA Independent Schools Parents Council of South Australia Inc.

Independent Schools Parents Council (NT)

Association of Parents and Friends of ACT Schools
www.apfacts.org.au

The Queensland Independent Schools Parents Council Inc.
www.qispc.qld.edu.au

Australian Parents Council
Telephone: (03) 6334 8886  Facsimile: (03) 6334 8862  Email: director@austparents.edu.au  www.austparents.edu.au

Supplement to APC Review 2, 2007
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MISSION STATEMENT
APC, the national federation of non-government school parents’ organisations, seeks to promote choice and quality in schooling, the equitable distribution of government funds for schooling, and effective partnerships to maximise schooling outcomes.

* Parents and Friends’ Federation of Western Australia Inc.
* NSW Parents Council Inc.
* Tasmanian Catholic Schools Parents and Friends Federation
* Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities (SA)
* Independent Schools Parents Council of South Australia Inc.
* Independent Schools Parents Council (NT)
* Association of Parents and Friends of ACT Schools
* The Queensland Independent Schools Parents Council Inc.
* Victorian Parents Council

MYTH: “Faith-based schools promote social, cultural and religious isolation.”

THE FACTS ARE:

- Australians have always respected the right of parents to choose a school that reflects their family’s particular religious or spiritual beliefs and values. About 95% of Australia’s non-government schools are faith-based.
- Faith-based schools complement government schools and have made a significant contribution to multiculturalism and social cohesion in Australia.
- Faith-based schools actively promote and engage in social justice and outreach programs that foster tolerance, understanding and social responsibility in their students.
- Faith-based schools must deliver broad-based curricula and need to comply with complex financial and regulatory reporting requirements.

Who really pays for schooling?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Government school student</th>
<th>Non-government school student</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Average)</td>
<td>(Average)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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<td>91.3%</td>
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<td>42.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>estimates to be about 2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>contributions to government schools are generally estimated to be about 2% of total income.</td>
<td>State/Territory Governments Australian Government Private Sources (parent fees, levies etc.)</td>
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</table>

© Australian Parents Council 2007. Source references for this document are available at www.austparents.edu.au
MYTH: “Government schools get less government funding than non-government schools.”

THE FACTS ARE:
When all government funding is combined, on average, Australia’s government school students receive $10,715 each in public funding and non-government school students receive, on average, $6,054.

A government school with 200 students would receive, on average, about $1 million a year more in public funding than a similar sized non-government school.

The parents who choose to send their children to non-government schools save governments in Australia approximately $5 billion annually (or about $4,650 for every non-government school student).

MYTH: “Wealthy non-government schools spend funding from the Australian Government on lavish buildings and sporting facilities.”

THE FACTS ARE:
Governments provide non-government schools with Recurrent Grants (towards salaries, teaching materials, cleaning, etc.) and Capital Grants (to subsidise the cost of new building and facilities, redevelopment projects, etc.).

Recurrent Grants cannot be spent on capital projects.

In 2005 government schools received about $257 million in Capital Grants from the Australian Government, while non-government schools received about $105 million.

Allocation of capital funding is tightly controlled and prioritised according to need.

“Wealthy” non-government schools do not qualify for capital funding from the Australian Government.

MYTH: “Non-government schools don’t have students with disabilities.”

THE FACTS ARE:
Approximately 25% of all students with disabilities attend non-government schools.

A government school student with a disability has the cost of their education fully funded out of the public purse. This cost often exceeds $25,000, based on current estimates.

In contrast, maximum public funding a non-government school student with a disability can receive is less than $9,000.

This inequity in funding significantly impacts upon the capacity of non-government schools to offer an appropriate level of resources for students with a disability.

MYTH: “Funding of non-government schools entrenches educational disadvantage.”

THE FACTS ARE:
International research demonstrates that when parents in low socio-economic communities are given a funded option to choose a non-government school, their children are:

- 15% to 20% more likely to finish secondary education,
- five percentage points less likely to repeat a grade,
- score better on scholastic tests, and
- are much more likely to take tertiary entrance exams.

Interestingly, government schools in the communities increase their performance.
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## MRC/ St. Pats Canteen Term 4 Roster 2007

Starting time 10.15am. Any enquiries to Rose ~ on 55932011 or A/H on 55932862. Thanks

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