

Telephone talking points

The following is a guide to help you express your concerns over the phone with your local Labor candidate.

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OF
BALLARAT
CATHOLIC
EDUCATION
LIMITED



CATHOLIC EDUCATION BALLARAT

Family member option:

1. **Introduction:** *Hello, my name is [insert name] and I live in [insert suburb]. My children attend [insert school name] where they are thriving and settled. I recently learned that the Victorian Labor Party intends to reduce recurrent state funding for all non-government schools. I understand that this funding is currently set at 25 per cent of the amount the state provides for a student attending a state school and that this arrangement was legislated in 2015 with your party's agreement.*
2. **Determine the candidate's understanding:** *Are you aware of your party's plan to reduce this funding?*
 - **If yes, go to section 3.**
 - **If no:** *Would you be able to find out more from your party's leadership and get back to me? I'm really concerned that our school will receive less funding. This could mean higher fees for us and put some Catholic schools at risk. I understand that each child attending a Victorian non-government school saves taxpayers \$9000 so it is in state's best interest that families can continue access affordable Catholic schools. I know that the Liberal and National parties provided a written commitment to maintain the current funding and I'd like to see the same from Labor. Thank the candidate for their time and close off.*
3. **Express your concerns about this:** *As a voter in your electorate, I'm really concerned about this because it could mean higher fees for us and put some Catholic schools at risk. I understand that each child attending a Victorian non-government school saves taxpayers \$9000 – that's almost \$2 billion across Victoria. It's in the state's best interest that families can continue access affordable Catholic schools. I also think we should be able to choose the school that's right for our children – we won't have access to this choice if it becomes too expensive. I know that the Liberal and National parties provided a written commitment to maintain the current funding and I'd like to see the same from Labor. Will you raise this with your party leadership?*
 - **Elicit a commitment:** *When might I hear back from you regarding this?*
 - **Thank the candidate for their time and close off.**
4. **If the Labor candidate states that nothing is changing (a candidate has already attempted this):** *I understand that the Labor government intends to change the funding from the current 25% linkage to 20% of the Schooling Resource Standard. This is not only a lower percentage of the support provided to students in state schools but it is also a different reference point. In reality, for the schools across the Ballarat diocese alone – of which our school is a part – this would mean \$6.5M less in funding just for next year.*
5. **If the candidate still insists nothing is changing:** *If nothing is changing, could you please send me a written commitment that Labor will be maintaining the current 25% linkage and the current funding modelling?*
 - **Elicit a commitment:** *When might I hear back from you regarding this?*
 - **Thank the candidate for their time and close off.**

As partners in
Catholic education
and open to God's presence,
we pursue fullness of life for all.

- If you receive such a written commitment, please let us know by reaching out by email: execdirector@dobcel.catholic.edu.au.

Parishioner / Staff member option

1. **Introduction:** *Hello, my name is [insert name] and I live in [insert suburb]. I work at / attend [insert school/organisation/parish name]. I recently learned that the Victorian Labor Party intends to reduce recurrent state funding for all non-government schools. I understand that this funding is currently set at 25 per cent of the amount the state provides for a student attending a state school and that this arrangement was legislated in 2015 with your party's agreement.*
2. **Determine the candidate's understanding:** *Are you aware of your party's plan to reduce this funding?*
 - **If yes, go to section 3.**
 - **If no:** *Would you be able to find out more from your party's leadership and get back to me? I'm really concerned that our school will receive less funding. This could mean higher fees for families and put some Catholic schools at risk. I understand that each child attending a Victorian non-government school saves taxpayers \$9000 so it is in state's best interest that families can continue access affordable Catholic schools. I know that the Liberal and National parties provided a written commitment to maintain the current funding and I'd like to see the same from Labor. **Thank the candidate for their time and close off.***
3. **Express your concerns about this:** *As a voter in your electorate, I'm really concerned about this because it could mean higher fees for families and put some Catholic schools at risk. I understand that each child attending a Victorian non-government school saves taxpayers \$9000 – that's almost \$2 billion across Victoria. It's in the state's best interest that families can continue access affordable Catholic schools. I also think families should be able to choose the school that's right for their children – they won't have access to this choice if it becomes too expensive. I know that the Liberal and National parties provided a written commitment to maintain the current funding and I'd like to see the same from Labor. Will you raise this with your party leadership?*
 - **Elicit a commitment:** *When might I hear back from you regarding this?*
 - **Thank the candidate for their time and close off.**
4. **If the Labor candidate states that nothing is changing (a candidate has already attempted this):** *I understand that the Labor government intends to change the funding from the current 25% linkage to 20% of the Schooling Resource Standard. This is not only a lower percentage of the support provided to students in state schools but it is also a different reference point. In reality, for the schools across the Ballarat diocese alone this would mean \$6.5M less in funding just for next year.*
5. **If the candidate still insists nothing is changing:** *If nothing is changing, could you please send me a written commitment that Labor will be maintaining the current 25% linkage?*
 - **Elicit a commitment:** *When might I hear back from you regarding this?*
 - **Thank the candidate for their time and close off.**
 - If you receive such a written commitment, please let us know by reaching out by email: execdirector@dobcel.catholic.edu.au.