The Australian Government is currently reviewing funding for all schools and it is likely that the government will propose new funding arrangements that will be debated in the Federal Parliament sometime later this year.

These new arrangements could have significant consequences for the funding received by your school and it is vital that your school community is aware of the facts about school funding. I will be seeking your support to defend the right of our schools to receive the government funding it needs to continue to offer a quality education, while keeping our fees as low as possible.

There has already been a lot of misinformation about school funding in the media. In particular, claims have been made that Catholic and other non-government schools receive more funding than State schools. These claims are simply wrong. Students in Catholic schools receive only three quarters of the government funding given to students in government schools.

I encourage you to take an active interest and be ready to participate in this funding debate.

More information about Catholic school funding can also be found at: [www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au](http://www.fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au).

Thank you for all you do for our schools. With every good wish,

Stephen Elder
Executive Director of Catholic Education
Reflect and consider

QUALITIES AND SKILLS OF A BOARD MEMBER
Each Catholic school is different, but all schools share the mission of the Church in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The board should be composed of people who appreciate, value and share the educational mission and ethos of the Catholic Church. When seeking board members do you reflect on the qualities and skills of benefit to the board in carrying out its functions? The following is a suggested list of key qualities and skills for members of boards.

- Commitment to Catholic education in the parish and school.
- Commitment to the vision and mission of the parish and school.
- An understanding of the role of parish priest, principal and board members.
- Willingness to ask questions and seek clarification.
- Ability to think strategically.
- Willingness to support the contributions of other board members.
- Capacity to listen in an active and meaningful way.
- Willingness to work co-operatively with others.
- Commitment to maintaining confidentiality at all times.

CEOM services for boards
The Catholic Education Office Melbourne (CEOM) assists schools by providing services which include:

- assistance with the formation of new boards
- professional development for new board members
- advice and support to principals, parish priests and canonical administrators in relation to the role of the board in their particular setting
- advice and support to newly appointed principals in relation to the role of the board in their particular setting
- support for network and cluster activities
- provision of print and online material.

The purpose of this consultancy service is to support principals, parish priests and canonical administrators, in their responsibilities related to strengthening the parish–school community. The service provides them with resources and advice in working with existing boards and in establishing new boards. The specific formation requirements of individual boards are the responsibility of

the relevant principal, parish priest and canonical administrators as leaders of the parish–school community.

Please contact Patricia Palman on 9267 0228.

CEOM resources for boards
The CEOM provides online resources to assist with formation of board members and boards. The resources are located on the CEVN website [http://cevn.cecv.catholic.edu.au](http://cevn.cecv.catholic.edu.au) at the Parish-School Boards page under School Improvement.

Resources provided are:

- foundational documentation for college boards and parish primary school.
- Guidelines for Boards of Regional and Diocesan Colleges (2010) which includes a Model Constitution, a brief guide for canonical administrators on the governance of the college, and information on the responsibilities and management of a regional/diocesan college board.
- a step by step guide to assist with establishing a parish primary school board.
- A Guide for Parish Education Boards (2012) which provides information, videos, practical tips and sample documents relating to the purposes and responsibilities of boards, board membership, developing an effective board, the operations and business of the board.
- A PowerPoint presentation for use in inducting new members to a parish school board or to develop the understanding of the board by existing members.

Principals and school boards are encouraged to use the resources to enhance their work and for the formation of board members.

Any queries or suggestions for additional information may be directed to Patricia Palman on 9297 0228 or [ppalman@ceomelb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ppalman@ceomelb.catholic.edu.au).
Engaging families and communities to enhance student outcomes

Parent participation in a diversity of roles affirms the important role of parents as partners with the Church through the school and with the broader community in supporting the learning and development of their children.

Where there is effective engagement with families, schools and communities, the quality of schooling improves, students enjoy more satisfying educational experiences, and communities are strengthened.

Partnership and collaboration between educators, parents, and community leaders is critical to student success.

This forum aims to assist school boards, families and school communities to explore strategies for creating effective partnerships and develop sustainable, enriching and supportive relationships to enhance the learning outcomes of students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Wednesday 29 August 2012, 6.30pm–9.00pm (Registration from 6.00pm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Troy Conference Centre, 126 The Avenue, Parkville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSVP</td>
<td>by 22 August 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who may attend</td>
<td>Primary school and secondary college board members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Registration is free. Please email your registration details to Patricia Palman <a href="mailto:ppalman@ceomelb.catholic.edu.au">ppalman@ceomelb.catholic.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There is a limit of 2 registrations per school unless prior arrangements are made with Patricia Palman. Refreshments will be provided. If you have any queries please contact Patricia Palman on 9267 0228.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

About the speaker
Since 1981, Anne T Henderson has tracked research and effective practice on how engaging families can improve student achievement. Her speciality is the relationship between families and schools, and it’s impact on students’ success in school and through life. Anne is Senior Consultant to the Annenberg Institute for School Reform USA.

Anne is the lead author of Family-School-Community Partnerships 2.0 Collaborative Strategies to Advance Student Learning (2011) and co-author of A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement (2002) and Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships (2007).