

Funding calculator as farcical as an episode of *Yes, Minister*

The Australian Government's School Funding Estimator has become an omnishambles for the government hours after its launch, Catholic education Executive Director Stephen Elder says.

'The government has provided all schools with an estimate of their school funding in 2017,' Mr Elder said.

'We now hear that schools are being contacted by the government to tell them that their estimates are wrong.'

Catholic education's analysis of the government's own data would suggest that it has assumed that its proposed funding parameters would currently apply. However, 2017 funding for schools should be calculated based on the existing funding model.

As the estimates of 2017 funding are wrong, the Australian Government is acknowledging that it has misled schools and the Australian public on the funding increases schools might expect under the new school funding model from 2017 to 2018.

The differences between those dollar amounts quoted on the funding calculator website and the funding schools are expecting varies significantly. Catholic schools in Victoria would lose a total of \$16 million in 2017 if the proposed model applied. This confirms the suspicions of Catholic schools in Victoria that the government plans to cut their funding.

School name	Suburb	Current model allocation 2017 - total	Current model allocation 2017 - per student	Birmingham model estimate 2017 - total	Birmingham model estimate 2017 - per student	Difference - total	Difference - per student
Academy of Mary Immaculate	Fitzroy	\$ 5,377,326	\$ 8,631	\$ 6,222,000	\$ 10,234	\$ 844,674	\$ 1,603
Aquinas College	Ringwood	\$ 14,966,008	\$ 9,226	\$ 13,932,900	\$ 8,527	-\$ 1,033,108	-\$ 699
St Oliver Plunkett's School	Pascoe Vale	\$ 2,584,172	\$ 7,405	\$ 2,741,700	\$ 7,856	\$ 157,528	\$ 451
Christ Our Holy Redeemer School	Oakleigh East	\$ 2,227,626	\$ 7,280	\$ 2,035,300	\$ 6,651	-\$ 192,326	-\$ 629
Genazzano FCJ College	Kew	\$ 7,045,882	\$ 6,452	\$ 3,097,800	\$ 3,317	-\$ 3,948,082	-\$ 3,135

'This is the kind of mistake that makes *Yes, Minister* look like a documentary,' Mr Elder said.

'Catholic education will be looking forward to hearing the Minister's explanation on the how this occurred.'

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