



25 March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

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. We want to assure you of a very important and simple message: **the ongoing enrolment of every child at St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic School Carnarvon is guaranteed irrespective of a family's financial situation.**

Catholic Education's position is very clear on the enrolment of children in all Catholic schools. No parent who wishes their child to receive a Catholic Education would be denied the opportunity to do so because of financial circumstances.

If you are worried about your financial situation and your capacity to pay school fees, the following options are **immediately** available to you:

- The Centrelink Health Care Card Discount Scheme provides an **automatic fee concession** to the holders of eligible means-tested family concession cards. This discount applies to all year levels from Kindergarten to Year 12. **Additional financial considerations are also available** depending on each family's circumstance.
- For parents who do not qualify for the Health Care Card discount but who are experiencing financial difficulties, arrangements can be made to provide **immediate support** to assist you with tuition costs.

We want to assist you in every way possible to continue your child's enrolment at St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic School Carnarvon. It is critical that you make contact with Sarah Berson so that we can put in place financial support arrangements to enable your child's ongoing education at our school.

Any arrangements which are made between parents and our school will remain **confidential**.

In line with the Prime Minister's announcement, education in our Catholic schools will continue to be provided during the COVID-19 crisis. As parents, you have a choice to keep your child at home or send him or her to our physical school site. We will continue, whether your child is at school, or at home, to provide rich and engaging learning activities and strong pastoral support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Debra Sayce'.

Dr Debra Sayce  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve O'Halloran'.

Mr Steve O'Halloran  
St Mary Star of the Sea

St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic School

A.B.N. 21 607 198 211