KEY ISSUE 2
Increased capital funding to help meet the schooling needs of Queensland’s growing population

Supporting the Catholic sector to deliver its share of new school places ensures educational choice for families and saves significant amounts of money for the Queensland Government.

Enrolments in all Queensland schools are projected to increase by 303,000 students between 2011 - 2031. (Queensland Schools Planning Commission - School infrastructure demand maps, 2013 edition).

Demand for places in Queensland Catholic schools is projected to increase by around 60,000 students between 2011 and 2031, requiring the development of 2-3 new schools every year and expansion of many others.

The Catholic sector cannot keep pace with this level of growth under current capital funding arrangements.

The Catholic community purchases land for school sites and contributes an average of 23% to the cost of construction of new schools, therefore saving Queensland Government significant amounts of money.

The Catholic sector also has a strong track record of delivering new school facilities successfully and efficiently.

The Catholic sector is seeking a commitment from the next Queensland Government to:

- develop short (3 year) and long term (10 year) partnership plans to help deliver the school infrastructure required
- provide a new schools capital grants program that reflects the real cost of delivering the additional school places, including an appropriate share of the planned $1 billion Future Schools Fund under the Strong Choices Investment Program.