

MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES IN QUEENSLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



1. POLICY

All Catholic school authorities seeking government capital assistance funding will develop clearly articulated policy and practice statements in relation to the adequate maintenance of schools' facilities.

2. RATIONALE

In Catholic schools facilities have a strong influence on the schools' ability to fulfill their mission in Catholic education and, therefore, need to be well maintained. In this policy the term facilities refers to buildings.

The maintenance of school facilities provides one economic means of maximising the useful life of the asset.

Relief from the consequences of neglect of maintenance will allow limited capital funding to be utilised in the most effective way for the benefit of current students and for the provision of new places and new schools.

Regular and planned attention to maintenance issues will minimise health and safety risks to users of facilities.

3. STEWARDSHIP

The principle of stewardship requires the care of persons and the ownership, administration and use of temporal goods in accordance with the Gospel and the social teaching of the Church.

4. DUTY OF CARE

All members of the school community have a 'duty of care' to staff, parents, students and all users of the school site.

5. GOOD MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The responsible management of facilities is environmentally and ecologically desirable and serves to maximise the economic life of facilities. Regular maintenance of an asset reduces the potential for injury or accident.

6. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

It is the responsibility of school authorities to ensure that maintenance of school facilities is a priority and that maintenance policies are in place and are being implemented in schools.

Maintenance policies and programs will reflect the responsibilities of school authorities and staff to act in accordance with the provisions of relevant legislation, building codes and regulations.

The Commission has instructed its Capital Programs Subcommittee that, from 1 January 2002, all established schools seeking either state or commonwealth capital funding will demonstrate that they have a maintenance policy and that implementation of the maintenance program arising from that policy has begun.

7. STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

In order to discharge their obligations all staff will be made aware of the requirements of the legislative provisions and frameworks applying to the school environment, and particularly to the upkeep of schools' facilities.

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