

2020-2029

# Group Funding Guidelines



## Introduction

The Queensland Catholic Education Commission's (QCEC) *Group Funding* arrangements are an important mechanism through which collegiality, and subsidiarity are demonstrated and the mission of the Church in school education is enabled across Queensland.

At the heart of this mission are the students in Catholic schools, with the funding arrangements supporting and maximising their educational and learning opportunities.

*Group Funding* commenced in 2001 and facilitates the State-wide distribution of Australian Government general recurrent funding to Queensland Catholic schools. The arrangements have been periodically reviewed to ensure their continued appropriateness and effectiveness.

*Group Funding* is guided by the following Principles:

- **Transparency** – an ease of understanding that facilitates agreement and application
- **Probity**– integrity and an openness and honesty of process, data and methodology
- **Predictability** – a degree of consistency and stability in the medium term
- **Equity** – Impartial treatment and fairness for all
- **Flexibility** – a capacity to respond to the unusual and unexpected
- **Accountability** – to government and all stakeholders

QCEC is an approved authority that the Australian Government has approved to receive and administer Commonwealth funding for one or more schools.

*Group Funding* is QCEC's needs-based funding arrangement that complies with requirements as set out under subsection 78(5) of the *Australian Education Act 2013*.

Endorsed by Commission:

19/08/2019

Review date:

19/08/2020

## **Scope of Group Funding**

1. *Group Funding* for 2020 - 2029 includes all Australian Government general recurrent funding paid to QCEC under the *Australian Education Act 2013* (the Act).
2. *Group Funding* will determine a per student recurrent funding rate for each year for each Queensland Catholic school.

## **Goal of Group Funding**

3. The goal of Group Funding is to transition all Queensland Catholic schools from their actual 2019 Australian Government per student recurrent funding level to 80% of the Australian Government's [Schooling Resource Standard](#) (SRS).

## **Funding Rate Recalculation**

4. Each school's *Group Funding* per student recurrent funding rates and transition path will be recalculated at each payment.
5. A school's SRS and transition path will change to recognise changes in enrolments and student needs, as recorded in the Australian Government's annual Non-Government Schools Census.

## **Step 1**

### **Transition Up by 2023**

6. *Group Funding* will transition schools who receive per student recurrent funding that is less than 80% of the SRS to 80% SRS by 2023.

### **Transition Down by 2029**

7. *Group Funding* will transition schools who receive per student recurrent funding that is more than 80% of the SRS to 80% SRS by 2029.

## **Step 2**

### **Additional Funds**

8. Following Step 1 there may be additional funds available for deployment.
9. These funds will be first allocated to schools who receive per student recurrent funding that is less than 80% of the SRS
10. If all schools are funded at 80% of the SRS or higher, and there are further additional funds, the SRS target of all schools will increase above 80% until all funds are deployed.

## School SES

11. As the measure of socio-economic status (SES) changes from SES to Personal Income Tax (PIT) scores, the transition arrangements used in the Australian Government Funding Model will apply to *Group Funding*.
12. QCEC will publish annually each Catholic school's SES score as applied in the *Group Funding* model.

## New Schools

13. Schools that first enrolled students in 2018 or later, and are considered new schools by the Australian Government, will receive 80% of their SRS from their first year of operation.

## School Authority Redistribution

14. School Authorities may redistribute Group Funding between schools. Where a School Authority is redistributing funding, they must ensure they comply with any legislative requirements, including having a publicly available needs-based funding model.

## Appeal Process

15. The [QCEC Appeals Process – Government Funded Programs](#) sets out the grounds for appeal, and the process to be followed, in respect of government funding programs administered by QCEC.
16. This appeals process allows for the lodgement of an appeal two weeks from the date of notification of a funding decision. For *Group Funding* purposes, the date of notification will be taken as the date of the first payment of *Group Funding* for the year.

## Monitoring of Group Funding

17. The Commission will monitor Group Funding annually with advice from the QCEC Group Funding Strategy Taskforce and the QCEC Finance Committee on any issues or unintended outcomes arising from the operation of the model.

# Calculations and Examples

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## Transition Up by 2023

18. Transition will move schools who received less than 80% of the SRS to 80% SRS by 2023.

19. For 2020 a school's closing *Group Funding* rate would be calculated as:

$$[2020 \text{ SRS } \%] = [2019 \text{ SRS } \%] - ([2019 \text{ SRS } \%] - 80\%)/4.$$

20. For example: a school's closing *Group Funding* rate from 2019 is 60% of SRS. The school's funding would transition up to 80% over 4 years at a rate of:

Year	SRS %
2020	65%
2021	70%
2022	75%
2023	80%

## Transition Down by 2029

21. For 2020 a school's closing *Group Funding* rate would be calculated as:

$$[2020 \text{ SRS } \%] = [2019 \text{ SRS } \%] - ([2019 \text{ SRS } \%] - 80\%)/10$$

22. For example: a school's closing *Group Funding* rate from 2019 is 130% of SRS. They would transition down to 80% over 10 years at a rate of

Year	SRS %
2020	125%
2021	120%
2022	115%
2023	110%
2024	105%
2025	100%
2026	95%
2027	90%
2028	85%
2029	80%