Fee Discounts – 2017 INITIATIVE

In 2017 Catholic Education will introduce a new school fee discount to further support families in our schools. Our policy on school fees states that, *no student should be excluded from a Catholic school because of the inability of their parents/carers/guardians to pay the prescribed fees.*

From Term One 2017, parents/carers with an eligible means-tested Australian government health care or pensioner concession card will automatically receive a 70% discount on tuition fees (does not apply to school levies). This initiative is intended to assist those families who genuinely lack the financial capacity to pay tuition fees in full.

For Catholic schools to operate effectively and provide high quality education, a reasonable fee structure is essential to meet the shortfall between the basic costs of running a school and the amount funded by governments. School fees include tuition fees and levies. Levies vary from school to school and may include items such as a Building Levy, Parents’ & Friends’ Association Levy, Information Technology Levy, and other subject and general levies. The new Concession Card Discount applies to tuition fees only.

Catholic Education strives to keep all fees as low as possible. The new Concession Card Discount initiative will be offered in addition to the Family Discount arrangement that presently exists in schools.

Furthermore, new or existing parents, who are experiencing financial hardship, and may or may not hold a concession card, are encouraged to discuss alternate fee discounts directly with the school principal, who will treat the situation confidentially.

Further details on the new Concession Card Discount eligibility criteria and general fee information for 2017 are available on the Catholic Education website [www.rok.catholic.edu.au](http://www.rok.catholic.edu.au).
For Catholic schools to operate effectively and provide high quality education, a reasonable fee structure is essential to meet the shortfall between the basic costs of running a school and the amount funded by governments.

Catholic Education strives to keep fees as low as possible. To ensure that all families who seek a Catholic education for their child/ren is attainable, the following discounts may apply:

1. **Family Discount**

   Families with more than one child in the same or other primary or secondary Catholic schools in the Rockhampton Diocese, receive fee discounts for the second, third and subsequent children.

   This information is collected by the school at the time of enrolment and the discount is automatically applied.

2. **Concession Card Discount**

   In 2017 Catholic Education is introducing a means-tested concession card discount.

   Parents/carers with an eligible means-tested Australian government health care or pensioner concession card will automatically receive a 70% discount to tuition fees (does not apply to school levies).

   Card holders are required to advise the school of their concession card at enrolment or when the card is gained. Once the card is sighted by the school’s administration, tuition fees for future terms will be adjusted. This initiative is intended to assist those families who genuinely do not have the financial capacity to pay tuition fees in full.

   Further information is available at [Concession Card Discount FAQs](#).

Our Catholic Education policy on school fees states that, *no student should be excluded from a Catholic school because of the inability of their parents/carers/guardians to pay the prescribed fee.*

New or existing parents who are experiencing financial hardship and, may or may not hold a concession card, are encouraged to discuss possible fee discounts directly with their school principal, who will treat the situation confidentially.
SCHOOL FEES

Why School Fees are necessary?

Federal and State governments acknowledge the right of parents to choose the school which best suits their children’s needs for educational, religious, cultural or other reasons.

However, in comparison with funds spent on students in government schools, government funds committed to non-government schools remain limited. Your contribution through school fees is essential to the continued operation of your Catholic school.

2017 Tuition Fee Schedule

Tuition Fee Per Student

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students in Diocesan Schools</th>
<th>One</th>
<th>Two</th>
<th>Three</th>
<th>Four or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discount Percentage</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIMARY - per week</td>
<td>29.75</td>
<td>26.03</td>
<td>19.34</td>
<td>14.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIMARY - per term</td>
<td>297.50</td>
<td>260.30</td>
<td>193.40</td>
<td>148.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIMARY - per year</td>
<td><strong>1190.00</strong></td>
<td>1041.30</td>
<td>773.50</td>
<td>595.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOWER SECOND - per week</td>
<td>51.50</td>
<td>45.06</td>
<td>33.48</td>
<td>25.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOWER SECOND - per term</td>
<td>515.00</td>
<td>450.60</td>
<td>334.80</td>
<td>257.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOWER SECOND - per year</td>
<td><strong>2060.00</strong></td>
<td>1802.50</td>
<td>1339.00</td>
<td>1030.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPPER SECOND - per week</td>
<td>63.25</td>
<td>55.35</td>
<td>41.11</td>
<td>31.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPPER SECOND - per term</td>
<td>632.50</td>
<td>553.50</td>
<td>411.10</td>
<td>316.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPPER SECOND - per year</td>
<td><strong>2530.00</strong></td>
<td>2213.80</td>
<td>1644.50</td>
<td>1265.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Funding Building Costs and School/College Infrastructure

Families will appreciate that there is a substantial cost to the Diocese in maintaining and developing the existing school buildings. It is necessary to raise capital income to service related debt or to otherwise support capital works. A differential approach is in place to account for capital income as shown below.

Diocesan Primary Schools – Building Levy

Each family will be charged a building levy (Primary) of $85.00 per term ($340 per year) per family with normal school fee billings.

As this amount forms a collectable part of school fees, no tax deduction is possible.

Diocesan Secondary Colleges – Building Levy

Each family will be charged a building levy of $118.00 per term ($472.00 per year) in conjunction with normal school fee billings except where families have children attending Diocesan Catholic primary schools.

As this amount forms a collectable part of school fees, no tax deduction is possible.

School-Based Levies:

School-Based Levies are charges for curriculum resources, library books and printing levies. These levies are set by the School Board – to be no greater than 25% of the non-discounted tuition fees per student.

Specific Purpose Charges:

Additional charges may apply for specific purposes e.g. travel and accommodation related to school field trips and camps, excursions and transport to swimming pools etc. As well, some secondary subjects require additional charges for materials used, e.g. home economics, manual arts, etc. These costs are additional to school-based levies.

Parents’ & Friends’ Levies:

Parents’ and Friends’ in consultation with their school community and Board may introduce a P&F levy in lieu of significant fund raising. Such a levy is voluntary and not included in the 25% as for General Levies.

Technology Levy:

Schools may charge a Technology Capital Levy of $95.00 per student up to a maximum of $190.00 per family. This levy would not be included as part of the 25% as in general levies. In situations where a family has two or more children across Catholic Diocesan Primary and Secondary Schools, the priority for payment of the levy will be given to the Diocesan Primary School. The levy is to be used strictly for technology capital purposes at the school level.
**School Fee Assistance:**

Our Catholic Education policy on school fees states that, *no student should be excluded from a Catholic school because of the inability of their parents/carers/guardians to pay the prescribed fees.*

Families with more than one child in the same or other primary or secondary Catholic schools in the Diocese of Rockhampton, receive fee discounts as described in the 2017 Tuition Fee Schedule above.

From Term One 2017 a Concession Card Discount will be introduced to further support families in our schools. Parents/carers with an eligible means-tested Australian government health care or pensioner concession card will automatically receive a 70% discount on tuition fees. See Fee Discounts and Concession Card Discount FAQs for further information.

Furthermore, new or existing parents, who are experiencing financial hardship, and may or may not hold a concession card, are encouraged to discuss alternate fee discounts directly with their school principal, who will treat the situation confidentially.

Details are available from the school or by contacting your Principal.

**EARLY LEARNING AND CARE FEES**

Early Learning & Care Services Fees include fee structures for the following type of facilities within the diocese:

- **OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE**
- **KINDERGARTEN**
- **LONG DAY CARE**

**OUTSIDE SCHOOLS HOURS CARE**

Fees are on a *per session (attendance) basis* with a range of fees to reflect the diversity of the centres across the diocese. All services are to charge at least the minimum fee to maintain a degree of uniformity and equity. Each child will be charged a session fee as follows:

- **Before School Hours Care:**  
  Minimum $17.00 per child – Maximum $19.00 per child
- **After School Hours Care:**  
  Minimum $21.50 per child – Maximum $23.50 per child
- **Vacation Care:**  
  Minimum $48.00 per child – Maximum $54.00 per child

KINDERGARTEN CENTRES

Fees are on a per day basis unless otherwise stated. Eligible Concession Card holders and those children who identify as an Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or South Sea Islander person receive a discounted per day rate. Each child will be charged a fee per day plus levies as follows:

- **Daily Fee:** $33.00 per child
- **Kindy Plus Subsidy:** Subsidy applied based on locality
- **Building Levy:** $43.00 per term per family
- **QCEC Levy:** $9.00 per year
- ***Enrolment Fee:** Non-Refundable fee determined by the centre

*The Non-refundable Enrolment Fee is payable for each child upon acceptance of the position at the centre.*

Individual centre fees will be published on their respective websites:


LONG DAY CARE

Fees are on a per day (attendance) basis. Each child will be charged a session fee plus a Resource Levy as follows:

- **Daily Fee:**
  - Birth to 24 months age group: $100.50 per child
  - Older than 24 months age group: $90.50 per child
- **Resource Levy:** $2.00 (weekly)

Centre fees will be published on the MyChild Website:

CONCESSION CARD DISCOUNT
Frequently Asked Questions
Commences Term 1, 2017

1. What do the cards look like and what information do they contain?

Two categories of cards are eligible for the automatic 70% Tuition Fee Discount. A sample of each can be seen below.

A: Health Care Cards

![Health Care Card Sample]

Payment type indicates the category under which the HCC has been issued. See below for eligible cards.

B: Pensioner Concession Cards

![Pensioner Concession Card Sample]

Payment type indicates the category under which the HCC has been issued. See below for eligible cards.

2. Which Concession Cards meet the criteria for eligibility?

To be eligible for the 70% concession on Tuition Fees (after Family Discount):

a) The child must appear on the card as the cardholder or a “Dependent”

b) The card must be “Means Tested.” Refer to the list below of eligible and ineligible cards

c) The card holder must be the person legally responsible for paying the school fees i.e. the person who has signed the enrolment form

d) The card must be current on the first day of the term for which discount is being applied.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELIGIBLE CARDS (Meet criteria)</th>
<th>INELIGIBLE CARDS (Don’t meet criteria)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Health Care Card: - Period of Issue: 1 year</td>
<td>Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (SHC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Newstart Allowance (NSA)</td>
<td>➢ Ex-Carer Allowance (Child) Health Care Card (CA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Sickness Allowance (SA)</td>
<td>➢ Foster Child Health Care Card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Youth Allowance (YA)</td>
<td>➢ Mobility Allowance (MOB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Partner Allowance (PA)</td>
<td>➢ Carer Allowance caring for a child under 16yrs (CA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Parenting Payment (partnered) (PPP)</td>
<td>➢ Department of Veterans’ Affairs Concession Cards (DVA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Widow Allowance (WA)</td>
<td>➢ Medicare Card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Special Benefit (SpB)</td>
<td>➢ Family Tax Benefit Part A (max rate) (FTB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Carer Payment (CP)</td>
<td>➢ Farm Household Allowance (LHS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Family Tax Benefit Part B (max rate) (FTB)</td>
<td>➢ Low Income Earner (LI)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 2) Pensioner Concession Card: - Period of Issue: 2 years | |
3. **Does the Concession Card Discount apply to school levies?**

The Concession Card Discount applies to [tuition fees](#) only. School fees also include levies which vary from school to school and may include items such as Building Levy, Parents’ & Friends’ Association Levy, Information Technology Levy and other subject and general levies. The Concession Card Discount does not apply to these levies.

4. **What about families on ineligible cards and other low income families without any Concession card?**

Our diocesan policy on school fees states that, *no student should be excluded from a Catholic school because of the inability of their parents/carers/guardians to pay the prescribed fees*. New or existing parents, who are experiencing financial hardship and, may or may not hold a concession card, are encouraged to discuss fee discounts directly with the school principal who will treat the situation confidentially. Through this consultation process total or partial exemption from payment of school fees may be arranged according to individual family circumstances.

5. **Can the Concession Card Discount be backdated to apply to previous terms?**

The Concession Card Discount initiative commences in Term 1, 2017. Discounts do not apply to school terms prior to the commencement date. The Concession Card Discount applies to current and future school terms and cannot be backdated or applied retrospectively to previous terms. Applications for the Concession Card Discount will be accepted for current and future terms according to the expiry date on applicant’s Health Care Card or Pensioner Card. If the applicant’s card is valid for the first day of term, the discount will apply for that term.

6. **What if my card becomes invalid due to a change in circumstance?**

The Concession Card Discount applies where the applicant’s Health Care or Pensioner Card is valid. If circumstances change within the expiry period nominated on the card, it is the responsibility of the card holder to advise the school of the change in circumstance so that school fees can be adjusted. Families who continue to experience financial hardship and do not hold a valid concession card are encouraged to discuss alternate fee discounts directly with the school principal.

7. **Where can I get more information?**

For more information about applying for a means-tested Australian government Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card please visit:


For more information about applying for a Concession Card Discount on your school tuition fees please contact your Catholic school or college.