



14<sup>th</sup> February 2012

## **As a parent of a child in this school, your voice is important in the upcoming State Election. Here's Why...**

With the upcoming state election, the Parents and Friends Federation of Western Australia Inc. would like to take this opportunity to highlight the **importance of grass-roots parent advocacy to effect change at the political level.**

The Federation was formed in 1954 with the principle aim of advocating for financial support from governments for Catholic schools. In 1965, after years of sustained effort and advocacy by the dedicated members of the PFFWA Council, "the Brand government Liberal-Country Party Government legislated to provide in WA the first per-pupil recurrent operating funds anywhere in Australia for children in non-Government schools." [i]

**The PFFWA were the first parent organisation in Australia to win this funding for children in Catholic and Independent schools** and have continued to advocate on behalf of parents since that time.

**It is still as important today as it was then to continue to push for funding equity at the grass-roots level - parents = voters.** Whilst we appreciate the recently received \$15m Low Interest Loan Scheme (LILS) funding for capital works in our schools from the Barnett government, the reality is that it has not increased since 1998, yet the cost of building new schools to provide choice and accessibility for families and the maintenance of existing schools to keep abreast of curriculum and technology needs has increased significantly.

It is important that you ensure your sitting member of Parliament and the prospective candidates in your electorate, **know of your concern for the failure of state government to increase funding for Catholic school capital development.**

The Federation has continued to advocate on behalf of parents of children in Catholic schools, maintaining a strong record of representation, advocacy and service through its independent voice. **We hope that Catholic schools are provided with the continued funding and certainty to provide the exceptional education our children receive and the PFFWA will endeavour to ensure that the voice of parents is heard at all levels of government.**

Please contact the PFFWA office on 9271 5909 if you have any questions.

Shelley Hill  
PFFWA Executive Officer

[i] *[p61, Struggle & Achievement: a history of the Parents and Friends' Federation of Western Australia Inc. (1954-2004), Dr Hal GP Colebatch]*

