

Welcome to our first Quarterly Catholic Education Foundation (CEF) newsletter.

In this edition we will share with you an uplifting story about a family who has benefited from our new CEF Foster Bursary. Introduced late last year, the bursary helps financially support the Catholic education of foster students enrolled in Sydney Catholic schools.

We are also excited to update you on some recent events that have taken place since the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted.

A special thank you to our staff who have signed up to the Staff Giving from the Heart Program, which gives staff the opportunity to financially support our students Catholic education. Our students are forever thankful!

I have recently joined the CEF team as Acting Operations Specialist and previously managed the School



Fee Support Unit assisting parents who cannot afford to pay school fees. Dominica Pafumi has been working in the CEF for the past 10 years managing administration alongside Janet Freeman, our City Link Mentor Program Coordinator.

We all look forward to working with you as we strive to live out the mission and vision of the Catholic Education Foundation.

**Kathleen Badolato, Janet Freeman & Dominica Pafumi
- CEF Team**

Our Commitment...

The Catholic Education Foundation is committed to helping Catholic families to access a Catholic education for their children in one of our 150 primary and secondary Sydney Catholic schools.

Our Vision is that every child from a Catholic family has access to an education in a Sydney Catholic school, and no child is denied this opportunity due to genuine financial, cultural or social hardship.

Our Mission is to raise sufficient funds to sustain our school fee support program to assist Catholic families in education their children in a Sydney Catholic schools values.

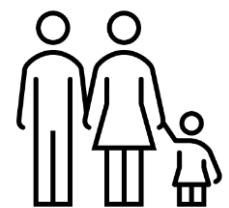
CEF Foster Bursary

Children are only ever removed from their natural parents in extenuating circumstances, such as violence, abuse or neglect. They are then placed in foster care or they become wards of the state.

The CEF Foster Bursary was introduced last year after one of our primary schools was approached by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) to enrol a student under a case worker's name until they could find a suitable foster family for the child who had experienced horrific abuse.

Recognising a need to help, CEF's school fee support unit in collaboration with DCJ introduced the CEF Foster Bursary to cover the total cost of the student's Catholic education. Allowing DCJ to provide government funding towards psychological counselling for this student.

According to latest data, there are 16,884 children in New South Wales either in foster care through agencies or living with grandparents and aunts/uncles and the CEF Foster Bursary is there to support all foster students, existing and future, enrolled in our schools.



The bursary covers the total cost of their Catholic education at a Sydney Catholic school and moves with the child if they change foster parents.

The school fee contribution can also be used for counselling and any other personal needs of the student.

CEF Full Financial Bursary

This bursary is predominantly offered to students whose parents live in Government Housing and are solely Centrelink dependent. As at December 2021, there were 1041 students receiving it. Parents contribute \$260 in Primary and \$520 in Secondary per year.

Among the recipients is a family from a south western Sydney school that has been experiencing financial hardship since being evicted from their home in 2021. The family still has no permanent housing and, sadly, the siblings are currently not living together.

The CEF Full Financial Bursary was awarded to one of the siblings to commence Year 7 in a Sydney Catholic school in 2022. The boy says he would like to become a priest.

Despite their adversities the family continue with their faith and attend church daily. Their story of determination, faith, and hope has resonated deeply with us.

On behalf of this family we say thank you to all our loyal CEF Partners, City Link Mentors and staff contributors for supporting families in difficult times.

EVENTS

National Sorry Day

Each year on 26 May, National Sorry Day is acknowledged to mark the anniversary of the tabling of the Bringing Them Home report in the Australian Parliament in 1997.

This Sorry Day, the [CEF](#) and [Sydney Catholic Schools](#) gathered at World Square to reflect through prayer, song, film and art and recognise the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as we walk together in reconciliation.

A highlight from this event was Sydney Catholic Schools' Artist-in-Residence Hamani Tanginoa performing the National Anthem in the Dharug language!

A special thank you to Champagnat Catholic College Pagewood, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Primary School Waterloo, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Enfield, De La Salle College Ashfield and Marcellin College Randwick for sharing, and allowing the CEF to display, artworks by their talented Indigenous students at Sydney Catholic Schools' Central Office.

[CLICK ON THE IMAGE TO LISTEN](#)



CEF Corporate Partner's Social Event

On Wednesday, 15 June, the CEF welcomed our Corporate Partners to our first in person social event in two years.

Tony Farley, Sydney Catholic Schools' Executive Director, and Kathleen Badolato, CEF's Acting Operations Specialist, updated the partners on the current programs being offered in our schools, including the Amadeus Music Education Program and the new CEF Foster Bursary.

We thank our partners for their continued financial support of the CEF. Without your generosity, programs like these would not be possible.



Catholic Education Foundation's Annual Refugee Soup Kitchen

Our refugee students are an inspiration to us all, in their desire to start their new lives in our communities. And this is why Refugee Week (Sunday 19 June - Saturday 25 June) is such a significant time in our calendar.

To mark this occasion, the CEF held its annual soup kitchen fundraiser at World Square. Staff enjoyed a delicious bowl of soup and helped raise over \$600 for CEF to continue to provide school fee assistance to more than 800 students from Sydney Catholic schools.

We are proud to re-share with you this short film, titled [Rita's Story](#), about a former Mary MacKillop Catholic College Wakeley student we have supported through the CEF City Link Program.



City Link Mentor Program Luncheon

In 2022, The City Link Mentor Program is providing 72 students with a personal mentor. The mentor's goal is to support each student as they complete secondary school, to offer guidance in relation to studies and to assist with life and employment skills not otherwise available to the student. Mentor support extends to a financial contribution which covers the cost of all compulsory school charges.

On Tuesday, 5 July, 50 City Link Mentor Program students from across seven Sydney Catholic Schools attended the annual City Link Mentor Program Personal Development Program and Luncheon. The luncheon was held at Sydney Catholic Schools' previous Leichhardt hospitality suite. It was especially exciting since the day had not been able to be held since 2019.

Students attended professional development sessions in Social Skills, presentations from online learning platform Atomi and from the Universities Admission Centre.

These lucky and deserving students then enjoyed a two-course lunch after which they had the pleasure of listening to our guest speaker, Mr Nicholas Moore, and Executive Director of Sydney Catholic Schools, Mr Tony Farley.

We thank everyone for contributing to such a successful event and program.



Thank you

We would like to thank all of the Catholic Education Foundation's Corporate and Community Partners for their continued generous support of our vision and mission.

[DOOLEYS Lidcombe Catholic Club](#)

[Liverpool Catholic Club](#)

[Box of Books](#)

[Loves School Uniforms](#)

[The School Photographer](#)

[Australian Catholic Superannuation and Retirement Fund](#)

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