



**Diocese of Toowoomba
Catholic Schools**

MEDIA STATEMENT

At approximately 10.50am today, the Principal of Sacred Heart Primary School Toowoomba, Mr Chris Rosentreter, notified Emergency Services of a small electrical fire originating from a stove top located in a prep classroom, that triggered the smoke alarm.

Emergency services attended the school and the incident was perfectly controlled with the small fire having already been extinguished.

There were no injuries as no student was in the class room at the time of the incident. Damage to the stove top was minimal.

The incident has been reported to the appropriate authorities and will be investigated in accordance with those authorities' requirements. In addition parents are being notified today.

...ends...

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About the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba

The Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba covers the geographic areas of the Darling Downs, the Granite Belt, Maranoa, Warrego and Gregory South Districts of Queensland.

The Diocese provides a wide range of services to these communities including:

- Schools (education)
- Social welfare
- Aged care

Provision of these services makes a significant contribution to strengthening and supporting the social and economic fabric of these local communities and supporting Government policies.

About Catholic Schools

The largest of the services provided by the Diocese is education. Since 1973, Catholic Schools (formerly Catholic Education) has worked collaboratively with support from the Federal and State governments and other non-state school sectors to provide a quality education to students across the Diocese.

Close to 10,000 students from more than 6,070 families are receiving a Catholic education in 31 schools across the Diocese.

Catholic schools supported by an administrative office employ more than 1,300 staff to provide quality teaching and support services to students and their families.

The support provided to schools is through the services of education, policy, governance, accountability, resourcing, and school improvement. The administrative office employs over 80 staff whose functions are to:

- Provide curriculum implementation, teacher development and support, inclusive education and indigenous education support that aligns with the objectives set by the Federal and State governments
- Provide advocacy support and representation, development and implementation of policies that respond to the objectives set by the Church, Federal and State governments
- Ensure compliance of regulations, procedures and guidelines set by the Church, Federal and State governments
- Provide accountability in the implementation and support of frameworks that monitor, report and provide feedback on outcomes on objectives set by the Church, Federal and State governments such as curriculum, learning, teaching and assessment, student protection, work health and safety etc
- Provide corporate services such as HR, finance, capital development, administration, ICT and demonstrating effective stewardship
- Implement and support schools improvement frameworks in line with objectives set by the Federal and State governments

School funding

Catholic schools receive about 81% of the total average government annual funding per student received by government schools (\$9,238 / student in a Catholic school vs \$11,440 / student for a government school).

Children educated in Catholic schools deliver significant savings to the Queensland government and taxpayers.

Funding for Catholic schools equates to:

- 59% provided by the Australian government
- 20% by the Queensland government
- 21% is provided by parent and community contributions.