CATHOLIC EDUCATION WELCOMES NEW OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE PROGRAM

Catholic Education Commission NSW (CECNSW) has welcomed the NSW Government’s $20 million program to help establish new out of school hours (OOSH) care facilities in the state’s schools.

Premier Mike Baird and Minister for Early Childhood Education Leslie Williams today announced the program under which government and non-government primary schools without an OOSH care service can apply for grants of up to $20,000 to establish such a service.

CECNSW Assistant Director – Education Policies, Rosalie Nott, said many families with children at Catholic primary schools would benefit from the program.

“Catholic OOSH care services provide an invaluable service to our community and I am pleased those non-government schools without a service will also be able to apply,” Ms Nott said.

“Children in more than 170 of the state’s 421 Catholic primary schools already have access to an OOSH care service,” she said.

“This program will enable more schools to establish before and after school care services for their families.”

Ms Nott said the grants may be used for fit-out costs, tendering or establishment costs, or to pay for necessary equipment to support the new OOSH service.

Ms Nott said some existing facilities needed to expand to meet growing demand at schools experiencing high enrolment growth, primarily due to Sydney’s apartment boom.

“Australian Bureau of Statistics data showed that 101,300 children were born in NSW in 2010; those children would have started kindergarten this year.

“This is 10,000 more kindergarten students than there were in 2010 – or enough to fill an extra 500 kindergarten classrooms.

“Most of the increase in births over the past few years has been in Sydney’s inner west, eastern suburbs and lower north shore, and this is where new or expanded out of hours care services are needed.

“CECNSW will continue to work with the NSW Government to develop ways to increase access to OOSH care services for children attending Catholic schools,” Ms Nott said.

Schools without an OOSH care facility are encouraged to apply for funding online at: https://beforeandafterschoolcare.smartygrants.com.au/

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