

Peter Malinauskas

SA Labor Leader



1. *Recurrent Funding: We are seeking a commitment from the state government to continuing its school funding contribution of 22% of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) into the next National School Reform Agreement – South Australia Bilateral Agreement.*

Labor will ensure that the state government contribution to the Schooling Resourcing Standard remains at 22% when the next school funding agreement is negotiated.

It was the most recent state Labor government which first committed to this increase in funding for non-government schools and introduced the first capital grants program for non-government schools. Labor also introduced the low-interest loans scheme in 2016 to support independent and Catholic schools to upgrade their school infrastructure and build early years facilities.

Labor has always fought for fair funding for our schools and an elected Malinauskas Labor government will seek to renegotiate the funding agreement with the federal government to ensure all schools receive the funding they need to ensure our schools are properly resourced to give every student, no matter where they are learning, the best chance to reach their full potential.

2. *Capital Funding: We are seeking a commitment to increasing the per annum capital grants to Catholic Education South Australia, in line with the increases that have been recently provided in other states and territories. Specifically, we are seeking the following capital grant allocations to Catholic Education South Australia, noting the incremental increases over the next four years:*

2022 – capital grant allocation of \$14m

2023 – capital grant allocation of \$16m

2024 – capital grant allocation of \$18m

2025 – capital grant allocation of \$20m

Labor will continue to support non-government schools to upgrade facilities and provide the current level of baseline funding (approximately \$6m in 2022) for capital grants to Catholic schools, with indexation.

3. *Preschool education: We are seeking a commitment to increasing the number of state government funded preschool places in Catholic Education from 420 to 1,000 by 2025.*

A Malinauskas Labor Government will set our children up for the future through the establishment of a Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care that will examine:

- The extent to which South Australian families are supported in health, parenting and education and care support and services in the first 1000 days of a child's life, and options for extending these services and support.

- How universal quality preschool programs for three and four-year-olds can be delivered in South Australia, commencing 2026, including addressing considerations of accessibility, affordability, quality and how to achieve universality for both age cohorts.
- How all families can have access to out of school hours care at both preschool and primary school ages, including considerations of accessibility in all parts of SA, affordability, and quality in public and private schools.

This Royal Commission gives us an opportunity to modernise and expand early childhood services in South Australia and explore the role that non-government providers can play in helping to deliver this. CESA will be an important participant in this once in a generation opportunity to ensure we are providing our next generation with the best opportunity to reach their potential as learners and as contributors to our state.

4. *Fair Access to Rural and Regional Buses: We are seeking a commitment to increasing the state government contribution to fair access to rural and regional bus services from \$1 million per annum (indexed) to \$1.5 million per annum (indexed).*

Labor will meet this request and increase the state government contribution to fair access to rural and regional bus services from \$1m per annum to \$1.5m per annum (indexed).

5. *Year 7 Transition Funding Commitment: We are seeking a commitment of \$10 million to recognise the significant costs incurred in the transition of Year 7 students into secondary schools.*

Labor will continue to fund all schools at the rate set for each year level under current agreements.

6. *COVID-19 Responsibilities: We are seeking an assurance for the continued provision of mandated supplies.*

Labor will continue the current provision of mandated supplies to Catholic schools.

7. *Vocational Education and Technical Colleges: Catholic Education is seeking a commitment to working in partnership with the state government to expand the provision of vocational education.*

Every young person has a right to expect they will complete school and will be ready to become self-sufficient adults, equipped with skills for further study and employment. In South Australia around a quarter of young people will not finish school. At the same time, there are skills shortages with employers looking for workers. We can do better to prepare our young people and to ensure we can meet the needs of South Australian industries. Youth unemployment is a national tragedy, and we are determined to act to turn that around.

Labor will work with CESA to explore options to expand the provision of vocational education to students in South Australia.