

# TUITION FEE DISCOUNTS FOR HOLDERS OF MEANS-TESTED HEALTH CARE & PENSIONER CONCESSION CARDS



**Catholic Education**  
Diocese of Cairns

*Learning with Faith and Vision*

In 2016 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Cairns will provide a discount on tuition fees for holders of means-tested Health Care and Pensioner Concession Cards.

The discount applies to tuition fees and not to school levies and charges.

The cards must be current and list, as dependents, the students for whom the discount is sought.

## Two categories of cards are eligible for the discount:

### Health Care Cards

Only cards with the following codes are means-tested or subject to an income and assets test are eligible for the reduced tuition fee rate:

- FA (Family Allowance)
- PP (Parenting Payment) (partnered)
- NSA (New Start Allowance)
- PA (Partner Allowance)
- SA (Sickness Allowance)
- SL (Special Benefit)
- WA (Widow Allowance)
- LI (Low Income)



Concession Code

### Pensioner Concession Cards

Only cards with the following codes are means-tested or subject to an income and assets test are eligible for the reduced tuition fee rate:

- PPS (Parenting Payment Single)
- PP (Parenting Payment) (partnered)
- NSA (New Start Allowance)
- PA (Partner Allowance)
- SA (Sickness Allowance)
- SL (Special Benefit)
- WA (Widow Allowance)



Concession Code

Other codes such as (DSP, CAR, AGE) are not eligible for couples as the means-test criteria are more generous. However, single parents/carers with these cards will be eligible.

*(continued overleaf)*

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## How to apply

Parents and carers should present their eligible card to the school office for verification. The school will make a copy of the card and provide a Health Care Card Tuition Fee Discount Scheme Form for the parent/carer to complete – this is a single page form. The fee discount will then be applied to tuition fees on future term invoices. For families with children at a number of Cairns Catholic schools this process must be repeated for each school.

The discount arrangement will expire on the expiry date of the card or at the end of the school year. Parents and carers receiving the discount have a duty to inform the school of any renewal or change in eligibility for the card.

In 2016 a discount of 70% on tuition fees will apply to holders of eligible cards.

## What if a family is still not able to pay the discounted tuition fee and school levies?

Families in significant financial hardship are asked to make an appointment with the school Principal who will assess whether the family's financial circumstances meet the criteria for additional support. The process looks at family income, the number of dependents and the family's cost of housing (rental or mortgage). This process requires full disclosure and is treated with sensitivity and confidentiality.

## What if a family without a means-tested concession card is having difficulty in paying fees?

Families without a means tested Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card who are experiencing genuine financial hardship in paying fees should speak with their school Principal or Parish Priest to apply for special consideration.

The same process as above will apply in determining an appropriate fee concession arrangement. No child will be denied enrolment due to financial difficulty.

## Further information

Please contact the school office.

Good Counsel College, Innisfail	4063 5300
Good Counsel Primary School, Innisfail	4061 2994
Holy Cross School, Trinity Park	4057 6920
MacKillop Catholic College, Mount Peter	4045 5262
Mother of Good Counsel School, Nth Cairns	4053 6133
Mount St Bernard College, Herberton	4096 1444
Our Lady Help of Christians School, Earlville	4054 2566
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, TI	4069 2203
St Andrew's Catholic College, Redlynch	4039 5200
St Anthony's School, Dimbulah	4093 5319
St Augustine's College, Cairns	4051 5555
St Augustine's School, Mossman	4098 1631
St Clare's School, Tully	4068 1527
St Francis Xavier's School, Manunda	4037 9900
St Gerard Majella School, Woree	4054 4805
St John's School, Silkwood	4065 2193
St Joseph's Parish School, Weipa	4069 9500
St Joseph's School, Atherton	4091 4211
St Joseph's School, Parramatta Park	4051 4041
St Mary's Catholic College, Woree	4054 6144
St Michael's School, Gordonvale	4056 1614
St Monica's College, Cairns	4042 4800
St Rita's School, Babinda	4067 1467
St Rita's School, South Johnstone	4064 2153
St Stephen's Catholic College, Mareeba	4086 2500
St Teresa's School, Ravenshoe	4097 6173
St Therese's School, Bentley Park	4055 4514
St Thomas's School, Mareeba	4092 1570