

Successful Grant Announcement

29 July 2024

Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited (CES Ltd) is delighted to announce that it has received \$6 million from the Victorian State Government to undertake Stage 1 of the new Secondary Education provision at St Francis of Assisi School Baranduda, and a further \$3.6 million for extensions to the Primary school.

This is wonderful news for the school and the wider community as planning for construction will now commence for the provision of secondary education for Years 7 to 12 and an extension for the Primary school including eight new general learning areas.

Principal of St Francis of Assisi Primary School, Ms Jennyne Wilkinson said she was thrilled to hear about the successful grant application.

“We are incredibly excited to announce this major grant, which will provide the essential funding needed to establish a new secondary school in our community as well as extend the modern facilities at our primary school site. This support will allow us to continue to create a state-of-the-art Catholic educational environment. This is a transformative moment for our community, and we are deeply grateful for this opportunity to enhance the future of education”.

The cost of Stage 1 is estimated to be approximately \$10.65 million dollars with \$6 million being provided by the State Government and the balance being funded by CES Ltd.

Master planning commenced in April last year following the announcement by CES Ltd of their intention to expand the school. The executive Director of Catholic Education Sandhurst, Ms Kate Fogarty said the process has now been completed.

“The decision has been made to locate the secondary school at Lot 4, Ellen McDonald Drive Baranduda,” she said. “This block of land is already owned by CES Ltd and is located in close proximity to the existing primary school.”

Plans for the construction of Stage 1 learning facilities, to accommodate 240 students (120 in Years 7 & 8, administration and staff facilities and associated infrastructure) will commence in late 2025 and continue into 2026 and 2027.

Because of the potential size of the new school, it is projected that construction will continue to occur over the following years in a staged approach.

Principal, Jennyne Wilkinson said it was anticipated that the First Year 7 classes will begin in 2028.

“This is a year earlier than what was originally anticipated and reflects the strong growth of the Baranduda and Wodonga communities,” said Jennyne.

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