



Catholic Education Office  
Archdiocese of Melbourne

# Collection of Student Background Information

## GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS



### Purpose of Data Collection and Reporting of Parental Occupation

In recent years the Australian and State Governments have asked all schools to collect and report on information regarding each student's background.

This information is being used to inform the Australian public, especially the education community and parents, about progress towards achieving the National Goals for Schooling in the 21st Century.

The national collection of data is necessary to monitor the effect that student background characteristics have on student outcomes and helps to direct resources to where they are most needed.

A component of this information is Parental Occupation.

### Parental Occupation

Occupations are classified according to five categories:

**Group A:** Senior Management in large business organisations, government administration and defence, and qualified professionals.

**Group B:** Other business managers, arts/media/sportspersons and associate professionals.

**Group C:** Tradesmen/women, clerks and skilled office, sales and service staff.

**Group D:** Machine operators, hospitality staff, assistants, labourers and related workers.

**Group N:** Not been in paid work in the past 12 months.

This classification affects how schools are funded, so it is important that the information provided is accurate. Information provided is confidential and is used and stored according to Privacy Regulations.



### Funding Implications for Schools

Student Family Occupation derived from parental occupation data is an increasingly important component of funding. From 2011 our systemic schools will receive a portion of their state government funding based on this information.

### Important points for parents to note

No individual student or school will be identifiable through published information.

All information which could identify, or would reasonably identify, students to whom particular background characteristics belong, is removed from national reports so that no personal information is reported publicly.

Data will be collected, stored and reported in accordance with privacy legislation requirements.

*'Improving educational outcomes for all young Australians is central to the nation's social and economic prosperity and will position young people to live fulfilling, productive and responsible lives.'*

(MCEETYA 2008, page 7)

### Further Information

Queries regarding the information in this brochure should be directed to the Administration Office of your child's school.



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Catholic Education Office Melbourne  
James Gould House  
228 Victoria Parade  
East Melbourne Vic 3002

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