



Public Notice: Ministerial Approval of Approved Authorities on Public Interest Grounds

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The Australian Government's Capital Grants Program (CGP) for non-government schools provides funding to support the construction of new school infrastructure across Australia.

The Minister for Education has approved several Approved Authorities or varied existing Approved Authorities' approval to add new schools under the *Australian Education Act 2013* (the Act), on public interest grounds.

This approval is required for proposed schools (schools that are seeking to be established and not yet offering education) to be eligible for capital funding under the Act, including the CGP.

The Minister may approve a person as an Approved Authority on public interest grounds under paragraph 74(1)(b) of the Act. This notice has been published within 7 days of the decision, in accordance with paragraph 74(2)(b) of the Act.

Approvals may be subject to conditions and exemptions to ensure appropriate oversight and compliance with the Act.

In approving Approved Authorities or varying Approved Authorities' approval the Minister is satisfied that it is in the public interest as the decision supports:

- demand for schooling of particular types in specific geographic areas
- the need to respond to population growth and future enrolment needs
- schools to serving specific communities, including those with educational disadvantage
- government policy supporting choice and affordability for parents.

Without approval or variation of these Approved Authorities proposed schools would not be eligible to attract capital funding under the Act, including the CGP.

A list of authorities approved by the Minister is provided below.

List of Approved Authorities

Approved Authority	School	Location	Public Interest Statement
St John Henry Newman College Ltd	St John Henry Newman College	Tarragindi, Qld	The school will expand access to education in Brisbane's inner south, responding to strong community interest.
High Trees Primary Gold Coast Limited	High Trees Primary	Currumbin Valley, Qld	The school will address strong community demand in a growing region.
Stromlo Forest Anglican College	Stromlo Forest Anglican College	Wright, Qld	The school will provide education in the rapidly growing Molonglo Valley.
Victorian Catholic Education Authority Limited	St Thomas Aquinas School, Huntly	Huntly, VIC	The school will provide a new primary school for the City of Greater Bendigo, which is experiencing significant residential growth.
The Corporation of the Roman Catholic Bishops of Queensland	St Francis Catholic College	Westbrook, QLD	The school will provide a co-educational pathway in an area of rapid population growth.
Catholic Schools NSW Limited	Carlo Catholic College	Moama, NSW	The school will address demand in the fast-growing Riverina region.
Catholic Schools NSW Limited	Eileen O'Connor School	Tuggerah, NSW	The school will provide quality education for students with autism or moderate intellectual disability, significantly increasing the learning spaces available for students with disability.

