Fact Sheet 1: Challenges posed by population growth

Perth has been the fastest growing capital city in Australia over the past 10 years. Since 2001 Perth has grown by 346,000 people, or 25%. Catholic Education has experienced strong demand over this same period with enrolments growing from 59,974 in 2001 to 71,774 in 2011, an increase of 20%.

The Catholic system’s ability to expand existing schools and build new schools is restricted by:

- levels of Capital funding
- local government planning processes
- increasing requirements for contributions to local infrastructure

The population growth in Western Australia is expected to continue for some time. The chart shows the projected increase in the 5 – 19 yr old age group.

It is estimated that an additional 100,000 students will need to be accommodated over the next 13 years with approximately 18,000 to be in Catholic schools or a 25% increase on current numbers.

This is the equivalent of 20 new primary schools and 10 new secondary schools.

The need for a collaborative approach with the State Government is strongly endorsed by Catholic Education and this needs to occur now.