2017 Income Tested Fee Reduction – Policies and Guidelines

Aim
Mary MacKillop College aims to help families on lower income access the quality education available at the College. To achieve this, the College will consider providing a sliding scale fee reduction based on the family gross income.

Who are eligible?
The following families may be considered eligible for reduction in school fees based on income.
- Families with income less than $75,000 for the financial year 2015/2016.
- Families experiencing change of financial circumstances, leading to income less than $75,000.
- Refugees

For the College to establish eligibility, it is very important for families to submit the required documentation and proof of income.

What documentation to submit?
Families with income less than $75,000 - Please submit the following required proof of income no later than end of Term 1, 2017.
- Tax Return 2015/2016 and Notice of Assessment from the Tax Office
- 2016 Centrelink Payment Summary

Families with change of financial circumstances - Please submit documentation leading to the change of financial circumstances, including proof of income.

Refugees – Please submit copy of Visa Subclass. You may be required to submit proof of income.

Income Assessment by Mary MacKillop College
What income is included or excluded?
The income included or excluded is the same as those used by the Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) when assessing School Card eligibility. In certain cases the College at its discretion may deem family gross income.

Income included as part of family gross income when establishing eligibility:
- gross salaries, wages and allowances from an employer/s
- taxable Centrelink pensions, benefits and allowances- e.g. Newstart, Parenting Payment, Carer Payment, Austudy
- non-taxable or tax-exempt pensions, benefits and allowances – e.g. Disability Support Pension
- gross interest and dividends
- benefits from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs
- supplementary income identified in the supplementary tax return
- reportable fringe benefits
- foreign income, including pensions and employment
- self-employment income; income from a business, partnership or trust

Income excluded:
- family tax benefits parts A and B
- child maintenance payments
- totally and permanently incapacitated (TPI) component of veteran’s affairs benefits
- carer allowance.
Will confidential interview be required?
Yes. Families applying for reduction in school fees based on income may be required to attend an interview with the Director of Business and Finance or the Principal.

What if families cannot or will not submit the required proof of income to the College?
If families cannot or will not provide the required proof of income to the College, their option is to have their income assessed by DECD by lodging the “2017 School Card Application” no later than end of Term 1 2017. These families may be determined eligible for School Card. Please note that DECD does not give School Card grant to the College and is simply providing the external income assessment service.

Will families be asked to sign a Payment Plan?
Yes. All families are asked to sign a payment plan using direct debit from bank account or credit card - Visa or MasterCard.

What to do if combined family gross income is less than $75,000?
1. Complete the Fee Payment Agreement and Direct Debit Request Form by 5 February 2017. The payment amount per month should be no less than 1/10th of account balance indicated on the Tax Invoice-Fee Statement or an amount negotiated with us.
2. Choose who will do your income assessment.
   a. If Mary MacKillop College
      - Email to finance@marymackillop.sa.edu.au no later than Term 1 2017 the required proof of income of both parents.
         - Tax Return 2015/2016 and Notice of Assessment from the Tax Office
         - Centrelink 2016 Payment Summary
   b. If DECD
      - Lodge the “2017 School Card Application” no later than Term 1 2017.

What we will do?
1. Once we complete your income assessment, we will advise you the reduction in school fees and adjust the payment plan amount accordingly.
2. Once we receive the notification of eligibility for School Card, we will reduce your school fees by $3,000 and adjust the payment plan amount accordingly.

Please note the following:
School fees will be reduced based on income or based on School Card eligibility, but not both.
Third or successive siblings will get the larger of the third sibling discount or the income-tested reduction in school fees, but not both.

Finance Enquiries
Telephone 08 8333 6300
Email finance@marymackillop.sa.edu.au

Mary MacKillop College reserves the right to amend the 2017 Income Tested Fee Reduction - Policies and Guidelines.