

# with VISION and spirit



**Mike Byrne** Executive Director  
 Queensland Catholic Education Commission

## From the Executive Director...

As a member of the National Catholic Education Commission, the Federal review of funding for schools has been an ongoing focus for me this term.

While at times frustrated by a lack of detailed information, the NCEC continues to engage with this process, seeking a fair funding system for all Australian schools.

Closer to home, this year's State budget continues to be a concern for Catholic schools.

Funding for education was frozen in the last budget, putting pressure on school fees.

While recognising that the State budget has been further tightened by recent flood damage, I have written to the Minister seeking reinstatement of at least a modest level of indexation of 3% in 2013-14. This is particularly important as schools face increasing costs including salary increases of 2.7% and funding enrolment growth of 3,112 students or about 2.3% across the sector.

This term, we have continued to push for what we see as timely review processes for both the Queensland Studies Authority and the Office of Non-State Schools (NSSAB).

The move of Year 7 continues to gather momentum. In addition to the work on capital projects now happening around the state, I am pleased that the Commission has allocated \$3.4million of our State funding to support professional development for teachers.

With best wishes for a safe and holy Easter Season.

**Mike Byrne**  
 QCEC Executive Director

## Catholic Sector Position on Funding Review Unchanged

**QCEC Executive Director Mike Byrne says the Federal government review of funding for schools must deliver increased funds for Catholic schools to close the gap between the level of government funding received by Catholic schools and government schools.**

"On average, Catholic school students currently receive 20 per cent less government funding than if they attended government schools.

"Even when school fees paid by parents are included, Catholic schools on average operate with only about 90 per cent of the income of government schools.

"Catholic schools strive to keep fees as low as possible so more families can choose a Catholic school for their children," Mr Byrne said.

Mr Byrne said if Catholic school funding fails to keep pace with government school funding, Catholic schools may be forced to increase their school fees.

"If fees go up, the extra cost may lead to parents taking their children out of Catholic schools, and in turn put further pressure on government schools, and cost government more money.

"To make sure this does not happen, it is vital that governments fund Catholic schools fairly into the future.

Mr Byrne said details of the proposed new funding model are still unclear.

"Discussions between the Federal government and State governments, and the Catholic and Independent schooling sectors are ongoing.

"However, while I stress that further detail is required, our internal modelling has raised concerns about the potential negative impact of the Gonski funding model on the Catholic sector over time.

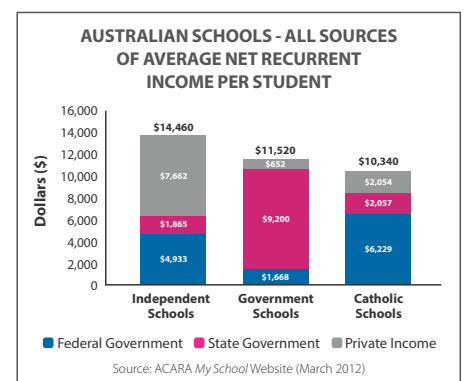
Mr Byrne said the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) is representing Catholic schools in the discussions which have now reached a critical stage.

"The Prime Minister has said that she wants to see a new funding model in place in time for the 2014 school year and has flagged the meeting of State Premiers (COAG) in April as an opportunity to seek consensus on a way forward.

"She has also said that her Government will go to the federal election with school funding reform as a key policy. The Opposition has said that they will extend the existing recurrent funding system for two years.

**"I encourage all with a stake in Catholic education to monitor this funding debate closely," Mr Byrne said.**

For further information on Catholic school funding please visit [fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au](http://fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au).



## \$52.1 million Approved for Round 2 of Year 7 Building Program

Building projects to accommodate Year 7 in a further 40 Queensland Catholic secondary colleges will commence in coming months following approval of \$52.1 million in Round 2 of the Queensland Government's Flying Start Capital Assistance Scheme in February.

QCEC Executive Director Mike Byrne says the Catholic sector is well advanced with developing facilities to accommodate around 11,000 Year 7 students in its 85 secondary colleges across the State from 2015.

"It is a challenge, but school authorities are confident they can deliver the required facilities in time for the start of the 2015 school year.

"Additional facilities for Catholic boarding schools are also a priority to accommodate Year 7 students from rural and remote areas.

"The Catholic sector is grateful to the State government for its support of this significant change to schooling in Queensland," Mr Byrne said.

Mr Byrne said the State government had committed a total of \$105 million to assist the Catholic sector with the construction of classrooms and specialist learning areas and had provided exemption from Local Government infrastructure costs estimated at \$24 million.

15 Colleges received funding in Round 1 of the program with the remaining 30 eligible Colleges set to apply for Round 3 funding in May this year.

## 13 new kindergartens open

13 new kindergarten services have successfully opened on Catholic school sites around Queensland this year bringing the total number to 18.

The new kindergartens have collectively enrolled around 565 children and employ 16 qualified Early Childhood teachers and a number of support staff.

Some of the kindergartens have conducted official opening and blessing ceremonies in the early part of this year.



Bishop of Townsville Rev Michael Putney and Diocesan Director of Catholic Education Dr Cathy Day are assisted by children at the official opening and blessing of Ryan Catholic Kindergarten in Townsville.

# Snapshot of Catholic Education in Queensland 2013

Number of Schools:	296
Number of Students:	141,313 (Secondary 57,897, Primary 83,416)
Enrolment Growth:	2.3% (Secondary 1,566, Primary 1,546. Total 3,112)
Number of Staff:	17,136 (9,795 teaching staff. More than 5,425 administrative and clerical staff with the remainder made up of specialist support, senior executive and buildings and maintenance staff)
Number of Secondary Schools:	72
Number of Primary Schools:	197
Number of Combined Primary-Secundary Schools:	27

**Catholic schools in Queensland are administered by five Diocesan education authorities and 17 Religious Institutes or other more recently incorporated entities.**

### Diocesan Education Authorities

- Catholic Education - Archdiocese of Brisbane
- Catholic Education - Diocese of Cairns
- Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton
- Catholic Education - Diocese of Toowoomba
- Catholic Education - Diocese of Townsville

### Religious Institutes or Incorporated Entities

- Brigidine Sisters
- Christian Brothers (Edmund Rice Education Australia)
- Franciscan Friars
- Franciscan Sisters
- Good Samaritan Education
- Loreto Sisters
- Marist Brothers
- Mary Aikenhead Ministries
- Mercy Partners
- Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
- Oblate Fathers
- Presentation Sisters
- Sacred Heart Sisters
- Sisters of Mercy
- Sisters of St Joseph
- The Augustinians
- Ursuline Sisters

### QCEC Membership 2013

Two new members have been welcomed to the QCEC for 2013. Executive Director of Catholic Education Archdiocese of Brisbane, Pam Betts joins the Commission replacing her predecessor David Hutton. Br Neville Solomon joins the Commission as a Representative of the Religious Institutes Queensland after replacing Peter McNamara as Queensland Regional Director of Marist Schools Australia.



Executive Director Catholic Education Archdiocese of Brisbane, Pam Betts.



Br Neville Solomon, Queensland Regional Director of Marist Schools Australia.

Professor Peter Sheehan	<i>Independent Chairperson</i>
Mr Mike Byrne	<i>Executive Director QCEC</i>
Bishop Joseph Oudeman	<i>Bishops of Queensland</i>
Br Paul Hough	<i>Diocese of Cairns</i>
Ms Elaine Jesurasingham	<i>Diocese of Cairns</i>
Dr Catherine Day	<i>Diocese of Townsville</i>
Ms Marie Radford	<i>Diocese of Townsville</i>
Miss Leesa Jeffcoat	<i>Diocese of Rockhampton</i>
Ms Coral Way	<i>Diocese of Rockhampton</i>
Mr John Borserio	<i>Diocese of Toowoomba</i>
Mr Michael Cash	<i>Diocese of Toowoomba</i>
Ms Pam Betts	<i>Archdiocese of Brisbane</i>
Dr Tracey Sanders	<i>Archdiocese of Brisbane</i>
Br Neville Solomon	<i>Catholic Religious Australia (Queensland)</i>
Dr Lee-Anne Perry	<i>Catholic Religious Australia (Queensland)</i>
Mrs Carmel Nash	<i>Federation of Parents &amp; Friends' Associations</i>
Mr Mike Wilkinson	<i>Executive Secretary to the Commission</i>

# Education Partners Gather for Welcome Function

**QCEC welcomed in the new year with a function for key partners in education in Queensland on Tuesday 5 February.**

Around 90 people, including Assistant Minister for Technical and Further Education Saxon Rice MP and Deputy Leader of the Opposition Tim Mulherin MP, Bishops of Brisbane, the Most Rev Brian Finnigan and Joseph Oudemann and Chair of Catholic Religious Australia (QLD) Sr Moya Campbell, attended the function at the Francis Rush Centre in Brisbane.

Acting Director General of Education Queensland Annette Whitehead and Executive Director of Independent Schools Queensland David Robertson also attended.

QCEC Executive Director Mike Byrne said the function was an opportunity to strengthen partnerships and professional relationships as the new school year got under way.

"We are privileged to enjoy a strong spirit of collegiality across government, Catholic and Independent education sectors in Queensland.

"Events like this are an opportunity to build on these relationships," he said.

"2013 is shaping as another busy year and one that will require many professional conversations to achieve the best outcomes for Queensland children.

"From the QCEC perspective, the Federal review of school funding and the State budget situation are presenting ongoing challenges.

"Planning for the move of Year 7 to secondary in 2015 will also gather momentum this year," he said.

In his address Mike Byrne also assured flood-affected communities of the support of all in the Catholic education community and recognised the vital work that schools, and especially Principals and staff, play in the recovery efforts within their local communities.



QCEC Executive Director Mike Byrne and Saxon Rice MP, Assistant Minister for Technical and Further Education.



Acting Director General Department of Education, Training and Employment Annette Whitehead, Executive Director Independent Schools Queensland David Robertson and Associate Director-General Skills, Tertiary and Non-State Education, Department of Education and Training Rod Camm.



Chair of CRAQld Sr Moya Campbell, Chief Executive Officer of QT Mutual Bank Limited Michael Murphy and QCEC Manager – Capital Programs Bill Dixon.



Terry Clarke, Manager School Transport Branch Passenger Transport Division, Transport Department, Greg Rogers QCEC Executive Officer Programs and Data Services and John Borserio, Director of Catholic Education Toowoomba Diocese.



Tim Mulherin MP Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Member for Mackay.



Principals of Villanova College, Marist College and Stuartholme School, Dennis Harvey, Peter McLoughlin and Helen Sinclair.



Robyn Grove Archdiocesan Services, Gabrielle Power West QCEC Director Corporate Services and Peter Carius Archdiocesan Services.



QCEC Chair Professor Peter Sheehan, Principals of St Laurence's College and St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace Ian McDonald and Peter Chapman and Member of the Queensland Catholic Education Commission Br Neville Solomon.

# Ambassador's Commitment to Justice Inspired by Catholic Education

**Anthony Ryan is the official Ambassador for Catholic Education Week celebrations for 2013 and says a life-long commitment to social justice was nurtured during his days as a student at Brisbane Catholic schools.**

Anthony, 44, is the Chief Executive Officer of the Edmund Rice Foundation working with the Christian Brothers Oceania Province in their mission of reaching out to the poor in countries such as Kenya, Tanzania, Papua New Guinea, East Timor and the Philippines.

His most recent initiative, a program called "Gone Fishing", involves small groups of 10-12 corporate leaders travelling overseas to see the work of the Foundation first-hand.

It is a program Anthony is passionate about.

"Instead of taking a couple of weeks off to literally go fishing or skiing for example, I'm challenging corporate leaders to get out of their comfort-zone and see some of the challenges that people are facing around the world and the work being done to help them.

"When you see dozens of children sifting through dumps in the slums near Nairobi, you know that the world is not as it should be.

"I believe it is vital that corporate decision-makers, many with capacity to affect change, have the opportunity to see these things," he said following a recent trip.

Anthony attended St Anthony's school and Padua College in Kedron before completing his schooling at St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace and says his passion for social justice was nurtured during his school days.



Anthony Ryan, CEW Ambassador, joins students from his old school St Joseph's Gregory Terrace.

"One of my teachers at Padua College used to say 'preach the gospel and use words only if you have to.'

"That idea of living the gospel and taking action has stayed with me.

"The Edmund Rice tradition I first encountered in Year 10 at Gregory Terrace was similar. It also taught me the importance of moving beyond just serving, to forming genuine relationships with people in need.

"The rich heritage of justice and service coming from the charisms of our Religious orders is something that I believe Catholics should be extremely proud of.

"I believe Catholic schools are continuing to make a huge difference both in the lives of individuals and in communities," he said.

Anthony is also a former teacher at St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace and Nudgee College, and former Assistant Principal at St Patrick's College, Shorncliffe.

Throughout his teaching career, Anthony did outstanding work in the area of social justice education, including founding the 'Eddie's Vans' project to provide meals for the homeless in Brisbane.

Queensland Catholic Education Commission Executive Director Mike Byrne says he is delighted that Anthony had accepted the invitation to be the Ambassador for Catholic Education Week celebrations this year.

"Anthony's work truly brings to life this year's theme for Catholic Education Week

## ***'Making a difference... inspired by Jesus'***

"I congratulate Anthony on his appointment and thank him for committing the time to carry out this important role for Catholic education in Queensland.

Anthony will visit each of the five Queensland Dioceses during Catholic Education Week, meeting with various groups of students, staff, parents and parishioners.

Catholic Education Week 2013 runs from Sunday 21 July - Saturday 27 July.

# CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2013

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE INSPIRED BY JESUS

Catholic education strives to make a difference in the lives of individuals and in the wider community by challenging young people to live out the message of Jesus and to reach their full potential as compassionate, contributing, life-giving members of society.

During Catholic Education Week, Catholic education communities across Queensland are invited to celebrate and share how they are **Making a difference... inspired by Jesus** in the lives of their students and within their communities.



## JULY 21 - 27

CATHOLICEDUCATIONWEEK.COM.AU



## From the Editor

Many thanks to all who contributed to this edition of "With Vision and Spirit". Please forward any suggestions and/or feedback to:

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