

# with VISION and spirit



Autumn Newsletter 2012

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

## From the Executive Director...

The QCEC has hit the ground running following the State election in March by working to engage key members of the LNP government and in particular new Minister John-Paul Langbroek on a range of issues.

On behalf of the Catholic education community I have written to outgoing Premier Anna Bligh and Minister Cameron Dick to thank them for their support. In the case of Anna Bligh I have recognised her significant contribution to education in Queensland over a long period, including as Education Minister from 2001-2005.

I have sent letters of congratulations to all 89 elected State MPs and included a list of the Catholic schools in their electorates. I encourage Catholic school principals to make contact with their local members and invite them to participate in the lives of school communities, especially in the case of those new to Parliament.

There has always been a strong tradition of partnership between the State, Catholic and Independent schooling sectors and the government of the day in Queensland and I look forward to this continuing under the LNP government.

I also take this opportunity to thank those who advocated for Catholic schools in local electorates in the lead up to the election.

Best wishes for a safe and productive term ahead.

Regards,

**Mike Byrne**  
QCEC Executive Director

## Catholic Sector Committed to Working in Partnership with LNP State Government

**Executive Director Mike Byrne says the Queensland Catholic Education Commission will work in partnership with Premier Campbell Newman and Education, Training and Employment Minister John-Paul Langbroek to ensure the needs of Queensland's 292 Catholic school communities are well understood by the new LNP government.**

"I have written to both Mr Newman and Mr Langbroek to congratulate them on the election victory and wish them well as they embark on this period of stewardship in Queensland," he said.

"Along with other Commission members, I have already come to know Mr Langbroek through his previous roles as Shadow Minister and Opposition Leader and I believe he has a good understanding of Catholic education.

Mr Byrne said the QCEC had particularly welcomed the LNP's commitment of approximately \$48 million over four years, as part of a *Building our Future Schools Fund*, to help build new Catholic schools to meet the needs of a growing population.

"It was also pleasing that the LNP committed to support the position we had negotiated with the ALP to fund the move of Year 7 through \$105million in capital funding and Local Government Infrastructure costs associated with the move estimated at \$24million," he said.

Mr Byrne said that along with the projected growth in student numbers, the move of Year 7 and the on-going rollout of the Australian curriculum in Queensland schools would be among the key challenges for the new government.

Mr Byrne also paid credit to outgoing Premier Anna Bligh who he said had delivered significant reform in education in Queensland both as Premier and Education Minister and was a great supporter of Catholic schools.



QCEC Executive Director Mike Byrne with Premier Campbell Newman at Mt Maria College, Mitchelton where Mr Newman announced a *Building our Future Schools Fund* on 6 March. Also pictured are Mt Maria College Principal Mark Stower (right) and Science Academic Co-ordinator Shan Wainwright.



Member for Surfers Paradise John-Paul Langbroek is the Minister for Education, Training and Employment.

## Catholic school enrolments increase

Initial collections of enrolment data in February revealed a 2.4% increase in Catholic school enrolments across the state, bringing the total number of students to 138,333. This is made up of 81,568 students in primary schools (up by 2.2%) and 56,765 students in secondary schools (up by 2.7%). Around 18.5% of all Queensland students attend a Catholic school.

## \$5.2m to Support Students with Disability Welcomed

Students with disability and their teachers in Queensland Catholic schools will have greater access to classroom support and specialised training thanks to \$5.2 million from the Australian Government's *More Support for Students with Disabilities* initiative.

Queensland Catholic Education Commission Executive Director Mike Byrne welcomed the funding boost (on 2 April), to be provided over the next two years.

"The number of students with verified disabilities in Queensland Catholic schools has increased by 78% (2,217 to 3,952) over the past five years and adequately supporting their needs is increasingly challenging.

"I commend Federal Schools Minister Peter Garrett for acting to provide this additional support for our students and staff," Mr Byrne said.

Mr Byrne said the QCEC had co-ordinated the development of a detailed implementation plan to ensure the funding was used effectively across Queensland's 292 Catholic schools.

## Funding Website

The National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) has developed a website dedicated to the issue of Catholic school funding.

The website uses official data from the Government's My School website and also summarises the funding policy principles that NCEC has presented to the Government's Gonski review of school funding.

The website can be accessed at [fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au](http://fundinginfo.catholic.edu.au)

## Indigenous Education on the Agenda

**Mid-March was a busy time for the QCEC Indigenous Education Subcommittee participating in two significant events in addition to its regular meeting.**

On 14 March the committee hosted a forum on *Pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students* that was attended by about 45 representatives of Catholic school authorities in Queensland and included presentations by Diocesan and government representatives.

On 15 March the Committee met for the first time with the Queensland Indigenous Education Consultative Committee (QIECC) an Independent advisory body to the Queensland and Australian governments on issues relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education. Taking community views into account, this committee focuses on strategies for improving the education outcomes of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander students from the early years through to post-school training and higher education.



The QCEC Indigenous Education Subcommittee jointly met with the Queensland Indigenous Education Consultative Committee (QIECC) on 15 March.



QIECC Chair Gina Archer with QCEC Indigenous Education Subcommittee Chair Eric Law at the inaugural joint meeting of the two groups.



Megan Harrison and Bernard Durie from Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Townsville attended the QCEC forum *Pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students*.

## Student Protection In-service training

'*Mental health and schools; the challenges of self-injury in the context of current regulations for non-state schools*' by Professor Graham Martin will be the feature presentation at an in-service training day for Catholic school authority staff on 18 May.

The topic of recognising and responding to sexual abuse and likely sexual abuse will be addressed by staff from the Sexual Abuse Counselling Service of the Department of Communities. There will also be a significant session on requirements for revising written procedures for student protection and the related training procedures.

For further information, including registration details, please contact Mike Wilkinson at QCEC on Ph **3336 9188** or [mikew@qcec.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mikew@qcec.catholic.edu.au).

# 'Welcome to 2012' Function

Around 80 guests from key stakeholder groups and partners in education and government gathered for the QCEC 'Welcome to 2012' function on 3 February. Guests were welcomed by QCEC Chair, Emeritus Professor Peter Sheehan and speeches were delivered by Minister Cameron Dick and QCEC Executive Director Mike Byrne. Among those attending were Dr Bruce Flegg Shadow Minister for Education and Auxiliary Bishop of Brisbane Joseph Oudeman, along with representatives from various government departments, Independent Schools Queensland and the Queensland Studies Authority.



Cathy O'Malley, Department of Education & Training, Mike Byrne, QCEC Executive Director and Peter Chapman, Principal St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace.



Kay Hearse, Executive officer, Good Samaritan Foundation, Bishop Joseph Oudeman, Auxiliary Bishop of Brisbane and Bernadette Fleming.



Allan Todd, Headmaster of Redlands College and David Robertson, Executive Director of Independent Schools Queensland.



Paul Herschell and Janice Chee from the Queensland Studies Authority.



Paul Giles, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, Independent Education Union of Australia - Queensland and Northern Territory Branch and Executive Director, Parents & Friends Federation, Carmel Nash.



Associate Professor Judith Mulholland, Australian Catholic University, David Hutton, Executive Director, Catholic Education Archdiocese of Brisbane and Professor Peta Goldberg, Australian Catholic University.

## QCEC Hosts Committee Representatives

The QCEC Education Committee hosted a function on Tuesday 6 March for school and diocesan-based staff who represent the Catholic sector on more than 60 committees, forums and taskforces convened by organisations such as ACARA, DET, QCT and NSSAB.

This function also provided an opportunity to acknowledge the longstanding contribution of Pat Elsworthy, Deputy Principal - Curriculum, Loreto College, Coorparoo, who recently finished his term on the Education Committee.

Pat's involvement with QCEC dates back to 1997 when he joined the QCEC Curriculum Committee. He has served as Deputy Chair of the Education Committee since its inception and for many years was the QCEC representative on the QSA Assessment, Moderation and Certification committee.



John Percy, QCEC Executive Office Education and Rhonda Neill, St Joseph's Nudgee College.



Mike Byrne, QCEC Executive Director and Pat Elsworthy, Deputy Principal - Curriculum, Loreto College, Coorparoo.

# New Category for Awards Recognises Contribution to Reconciliation

**The Aunty Joan Hendriks Spirit of Catholic Education Reconciliation Award has been introduced this year and named in honour of the recently retired Chair of the QCEC Indigenous Education Subcommittee.**

The annual award will recognise individuals making an outstanding contribution to the life of a Catholic education community in the area of Reconciliation.

Aunty Joan is an Aboriginal Elder of the Ngugi people from Moreton Island who has made a significant contribution to strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and Catholic education over many years.

Her roles across Church, state and national arenas have included Queensland Bishops' nominee to the National Catholic Education Commission and teacher at the Australian Catholic University.

Aunty Joan's passion for educating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people continues in semi-retirement with her present role as Cultural Awareness Project Officer and Elder in Residence at Lourdes Hill College, Brisbane.

The Spirit of Catholic Education Awards are presented annually in conjunction with Catholic Education Week to recognise staff members, parents, clergy or volunteers making an outstanding contribution to the life of

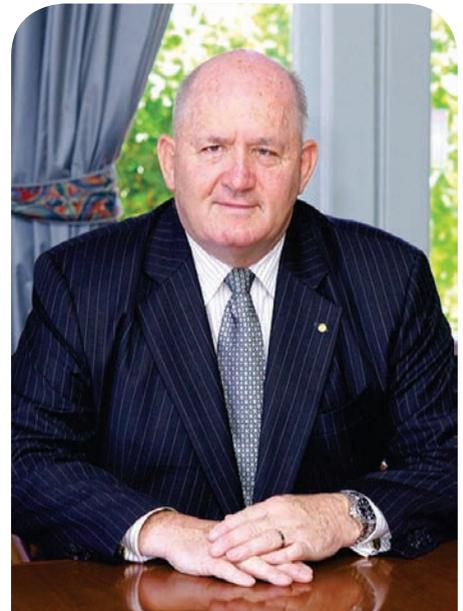
Catholic school communities and Catholic education agencies in Queensland.

Other categories for nomination include initiating a program or activity in response to a need, leading and facilitating for change and improvement, striving for excellence in their work, and engaging in exceptionally life-giving relationships with students, colleagues or other members of the school community or Catholic education agency.

This year's awards will be presented at the official launch of Catholic Education Week at The Little Flower Church, Kedron on Wednesday 25 July. All nominees for the awards will receive a certificate of recognition to be presented within their school communities.

The awards are proudly supported by the QT Mutual Bank (QTMB), the Australian Catholic Superannuation and Retirement Fund (ACSRF) and the Australian Catholic University (ACU), the sponsors of Catholic Education Week.

Nominations are now open with forms available on the Catholic Education Week website at: [catholiceducationweek.com.au](http://catholiceducationweek.com.au). Closing date is 5.00pm Friday 11 May 2012.



## General Peter Cosgrove - Official Ambassador Catholic Education Week 2012

General Peter Cosgrove AC MC has accepted the invitation to be the official Ambassador for Catholic Education Week (22-28 July) in Queensland in 2012.

General Cosgrove is currently the Chancellor of the Australian Catholic University and the QCEC believes that his strong Catholic faith, outstanding career, and in particular his well-known peace keeping work in East Timor and community rebuilding in Innisfail following Cyclone Larry, make him an ideal ambassador for this year's celebrations.



Aunty Joan Hendriks pictured with students at Lourdes Hill College, Brisbane.

## Catholic Education Week 2012 Focuses on "Community"

CEW 2012 will be held from Sunday 22 July - Saturday 28 July and will focus on the theme:

**Celebrating Community**  
*Family Parish School*



For further information please visit [catholiceducationweek.com.au](http://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:

**Gerard Delaney**

gerardd@qcec.catholic.edu.au  
Queensland Catholic Education Commission  
GPO Box 2441 Brisbane 4001  
Ph: (07) 3336 9350 Fax: (07) 3229 0907



[qcec.catholic.edu.au](http://qcec.catholic.edu.au)