

# with vision and spirit



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

## From the Executive Director...

Welcome to the third edition of *With Vision and Spirit* for 2011. Much of the Commission's focus continues to be on the political agenda and ensuring our State and Federal politicians are well aware of the needs of Catholic schools. With a State election due between now and March next year, I have recently had a series of meetings with leaders from both major parties and have raised a number of key issues with them. It is also vital that local delegations meet with MPs and candidates. I am aware that many meetings have already occurred in this respect and I encourage school community leaders to plan meetings as soon as possible.

Closer to the election, QCEC and the Parents and Friends Federation will seek formal responses to the issues raised and these will be published throughout school communities.

On the Federal scene, QCEC is contributing to the response to the four independent research reports released recently as part of the Gonski review process. This response will be submitted by 30 September.

As we look further ahead, a task force has now been formed by the Commission to provide advice and facilitate collaboration between Catholic school authorities to help ensure the move of Year 7 to secondary proceeds smoothly in 2015.

Finally, the Commission was delighted to host around 120 Catholic education and industry representatives for a function on 31 August to recognise their great work in successfully delivering the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution program.

With best wishes.

**Mike Byrne**  
QCEC Executive Director

## Catholic Education Calls on State Government to Address Schools 'Resource Gap'

**The Queensland Catholic Education Commission and the Federation of Parents and Friends Associations have jointly called on both the ALP and LNP to commit to addressing a 'resource gap' between Catholic schools and State schools if successful at the next election.**

The call comes as principals and parents in 290 Catholic school communities across the State lead a campaign to raise the issue with local State MPs and candidates over the coming weeks.

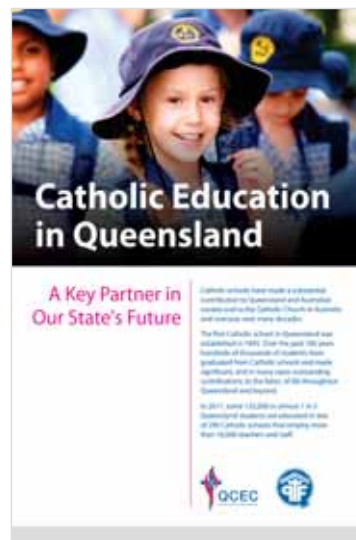
"The *Myschool* website shone a light on the facts about school resourcing when it went live earlier this year and showed the Catholic sector was clearly the lowest resourced schooling sector in Queensland," QCEC Executive Director Mike Byrne said.

"When parent contributions are taken into account, total net average annual recurrent income per student in Australian schools for the Catholic sector is \$10,008, for State schools is \$11,132, and for Independent Schools \$13,711.

"In terms of all Government funding, State schools received on average \$10,600 per student while Catholic schools received a total of \$7,700 per student or about 73% of the funding for State schools.

Mr Byrne said the Catholic sector is seeking a modest 1% increase in the rate of State government funding each year for the next four years.

"Based on 2010 figures, a 1% increase in the rate for Catholic schools would deliver around



\$14.5 million or \$108 per student to the Catholic sector in the first year.

"We are seeking this small increase not only to improve the resources available to the students and their teachers but also to relieve pressure on school fees," Mike Byrne said.

The Catholic education bodies have also raised a number of other issues including the continuation of the *Tomorrow's Schools* capital funding program to assist the Catholic sector to meet growth of about 3% per year over the past decade that is projected to continue.

"Catholic education is requesting that the *Tomorrow's Schools* program be extended for a further five years to provide approximately \$12 million in additional capital assistance each year.

"This would allow school infrastructure to be delivered in a timely way and enable Catholic education to continue its role supporting the State government in the provision of education in Queensland," Mike Byrne said.

More information about the issues raised is available on the QCEC website.

# Excelling in education - heart, mind and spirit

## Catholic Education Week 2011

**Catholic Education Week in Queensland is a special opportunity each year for Catholic schools and education ministries to celebrate their distinctive mission and share the great things they are doing with their local communities. This year's celebrations focused on the theme *Excelling in education - heart, mind and spirit*.**

### Catholic Education Week officially launched

Catholic Education Week 2011 was officially launched by Bishop Brian Finnigan, Auxiliary Bishop for Brisbane, at a celebration attended by over 300 students, teachers, parents and friends of Catholic education from across the state at All Hallows' School on Wednesday 27 July. The event combined a liturgical celebration with the presentation of the 2011 Spirit of Catholic Education Awards by Her Excellency Governor Penelope Wensley AC. In her address the Governor affirmed the contribution that Catholic schools make to education in Queensland and noted Catholic education's commitment to holistic education for each student.



Bishop Brian Finnigan, Auxiliary Bishop for Brisbane, officially launches Catholic Education Week 2011



Dr Lee-Anne Perry, Deputy Chair QCEC and Principal, All Hallows' School with Dr Bruce Flegg MP, Shadow Minister for Education and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

### State Government Reception

The State Government shared in Catholic Education Week celebrations and recognised the important role of Catholic education in Queensland when Minister for Education and Industrial Relations, Hon Cameron Dick, hosted a reception at Parliament House, Brisbane on 25 July.

All State MPs were invited along with principals and parent representatives from Catholic school communities. Students from Marist College, Ashgrove and San Sisto College, Carina provided guests with guitar and choral entertainment.



(From left): Mark Gibbs, Acting Principal, St Patrick's College, Mackay; Paul Hoolihan MP, Member for Keppel; Crispin Scott, Student Leader, St Patrick's College, Mackay; The Hon Cameron Dick MP, Minister for Education and Industrial Relations; Brittany-Elise Johansen, Student Leader, St Patrick's College; Leesa Jeffcoat, Director, Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Rockhampton; Neil McDonald, Media Coordinator, Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Rockhampton and Coral Way, Coordinator of Indigenous Education, Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Rockhampton.



Most Rev. John Bathersby, Archbishop of Brisbane and Emeritus Professor Peter Sheehan, Chair, Queensland Catholic Education Commission



The Hon Cameron Dick MP, Minister for Education and Industrial Relations

### Ambassador Sr Margaret Madden

Brisbane Sister of Mercy Margaret Madden was the official ambassador for Catholic Education Week 2011. Sr Margaret visited schools and Dioceses around the state during Catholic Education Week to share her experiences with students, staff and parents.

Mike Byrne said that "Sr Margaret is a woman living a hope-filled life, working to make the world a better place.

"She strives to lead and go beyond expectations, qualities that made her an inspiration and a worthy ambassador for this year's celebrations," he said.



Sr Margaret Madden, CEW 2011 Ambassador with students from St Anthony's School, Alexandra Hills, Marcus Moutafis (L) and Antonia Raines (R)

## Seven outstanding contributors receive Spirit of Catholic Education Awards

A highlight of Catholic Education Week 2011 was the presentation of the Spirit of Catholic Education Awards. This year 83 outstanding contributors to Catholic education were nominated for the awards from all spheres of the state-wide Catholic education community - clergy, religious, teachers, support staff, parents and volunteers.

Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland Ms Penny Wensley AO presented this year's awards to the seven recipients as part of the official launch of Catholic Education Week.

The 2011 recipients are:

- **Marlene Blundell (Assistant Principal - Curriculum) - Archdiocese of Brisbane** (St Augustine's College, Springfield)
- **Harry Graepel (Teacher) - Diocese of Cairns** (St Mary's Catholic College, Woree)
- **Denise Holden (Parent and Volunteer) - Diocese of Rockhampton** (St Joseph's School, Park Avenue)
- **Colin McAuliffe (Teachers Aide) - Diocese of Toowoomba** (St Joseph's College, Toowoomba)
- **Fr Noel Milner (Clergy) - Diocese of Rockhampton** (St Therese's Catholic School, Monto and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Biloela)
- **Karyn O'Reilly (Justice and Service Learning Support Officer) - Religious Institute School** (Lourdes Hill College, Brisbane)
- **Christine Persello (Teacher) - Diocese of Townsville** (St Mary's School, Bowen)



Her Excellency Penelope Wensley AC with recipients of the 2011 Spirit of Catholic Education Awards (L-R) Christine Persello, St Mary's School, Bowen; Karyn O'Reilly, Lourdes Hill College, Hawthorne; Fr Noel Milner, St Therese's Catholic School, Monto and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Biloela; Harry Graepel, St Mary's Catholic College, Woree; Governor Penelope Wensley; Denise Holden, St Joseph's School, Park Avenue; Robyn Sharpe, Diocese of Toowoomba (on behalf of recipient Colin McAuliffe, St Joseph's College Toowoomba) and Marlene Blundell, St Augustine's College, Springfield.

## NCEC Launches Funding Website

The National Catholic Education Commission has launched a website designed to be a 'hub' of information and perspectives about school funding for members of the Catholic education and wider communities.

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



## Function Recognises Successful Implementation of BER Program

Around 120 Principals, representatives of QCEC and Catholic school authorities joined with architects and industry consultants on 31 August for a function to recognise the achievements of the Catholic education community and its partners in implementing the Australian Government's *Building the Education Revolution* Program.

Senator for Queensland and President of the Senate Hon John Hogg represented the Australian government on the occasion.

In addressing the function QCEC Chair Professor Peter Sheehan said the Queensland Catholic sector had received \$582 million for construction and maintenance works across 288 schools involving some 871 individual projects through the program.

He said over 50 consulting firms and 100 building contractors had been engaged to complete the design and construction of projects that ranged from libraries and information technology centers to classrooms, multi-purpose halls and undercover sports areas.

"Without a doubt the biggest factor contributing to the successful delivery of this infrastructure in such a short time has been the ability of our school principals and parent leaders, along with school authorities, architects and consultants to work together effectively in partnership.

"The program has been a once in a lifetime opportunity to develop the facilities of Catholic schools in Queensland to a level most would never have been able to afford," Professor Sheehan said.



Steven Jeffery, Assistant Director Finance and Resourcing, QCEC; Mark Trotter, Director, Fulton Trotter Architects; Emeritus Professor Peter Sheehan, Chair, QCEC; Carmel Nash, Executive Director, Federation of Parents and Friends Associations; Senator John Hogg



Roly Poulton, BER Project Overseer, Diocese of Toowoomba; Janelle Whitbread, Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Toowoomba; Senator John Hogg; John Borserio, Director, Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Toowoomba; Kelvin Brooks, Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Toowoomba; John Hegarty, Principal, Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Dalby; Bob Knight, Executive Officer Education, QCEC and formerly Principal of St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe.

# QCEC and State Committee of Parents & Friends Meet

The annual joint meeting of the Commission and the State Committee of the Federation of Parents & Friends Associations was held on Monday 22 August.

The meeting focussed on several of the key issues relevant to both groups including political advocacy processes, a number of elements of the *Flying Start* with particular reference to kindergartens, and the *Smart Choices* program for school tuck shops.

The meeting was jointly Chaired by QCEC Chair Professor Peter Sheehan and Parents and Friends State Committee Chair Mr David Taylor.



Pictured are QCEC Chair Professor Peter Sheehan, Parents and Friends State Committee Chair Mr David Taylor, QCEC Executive Director Mike Byrne and Parents and Friends Federation Executive Director Carmel Nash

## QCEC Hosts Kindergarten Forum

**Around 40 staff from Diocesan offices around the state with responsibility for the establishment and implementation of kindergartens on Catholic school sites will attend a forum in October to discuss the operation of kindergartens.**

The forum aims to cover a range of topics including curriculum, legislation, funding, human resourcing and governance.

In May this year QCEC welcomed an announcement by State Education Minister Cameron Dick of funding for 14 additional kindergarten services to be established on Queensland Catholic school sites by 2013.

"The year before Prep is vital to ensure children get the best possible start to learning and are well prepared for school," QCEC Executive Director Mike Byrne said.

"The Catholic sector looks forward to further opportunities to work in partnership with the government to help provide these services for children in communities where they are needed."

The forum will be held at the O'Shea Centre at Wilston in Brisbane on 20 and 21 October.

Further information is available by contacting Jane Slattery at QCEC on [janes@qcec.catholic.edu.au](mailto:janes@qcec.catholic.edu.au) or Ph 3336 9306.



Phil Whitehouse commenced in the new position of QCEC Manager Strategic Human Resources and Enterprise Bargaining on 4 July

## New Industrial Relations Staff welcomed

Phil Whitehouse commenced in the new position of QCEC Manager Strategic Human Resources and Enterprise Bargaining on 4 July. Phil brings extensive experience working with a number of Queensland-based organisations including as Director Workforce Relations for the Department of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA) from 2002 to 2008.

Working with the QCEC Industrial Relations Committee, Phil has commenced preparations for the negotiation of the seventh Enterprise Bargaining Agreements ('EB7') with the Independent Education Union which will begin in February next year.

Ian Naylor will take up the position of Executive Officer Employee Relations on 26 September. Ian brings experience as a human resource consultant and senior human resources advisor with several local organisations, most recently the Churches of Christ.

Executive Director Mike Byrne said he was delighted with the new appointments.

"Both Phil and Ian bring a wealth of experience and expertise to these important roles and I warmly welcome them to QCEC," he said.

## 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](mailto:gerardd@qcec.catholic.edu.au)

Queensland Catholic Education Commission

GPO Box 2441 Brisbane 4001

Ph: (07) 3336 9350 Fax: (07) 3229 0907



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