

with vision and spirit



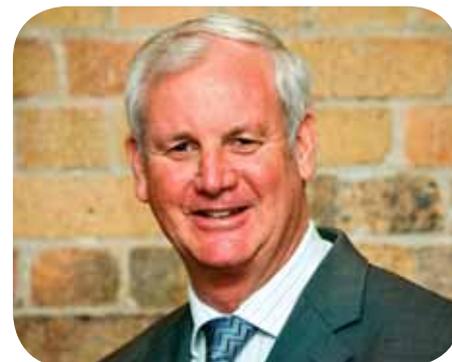
Summer Newsletter 2011

Kindergarten forum 02

Planning conference 02

Trade Training centres 03

Alcohol education program 04



Mike Byrne Executive Director
Queensland Catholic Education Commission

From the Executive Director...

2011 has been another busy year for QCEC.

In May the Commission welcomed the State government's announcement of the move of Year 7 to secondary school from 2015. While making this move will bring a number of challenges, the Commission believes it will be in the best interests of Queensland children in the long term. I am pleased that a taskforce has now been formed to assist with preparations for the move over the next three years.

In collaboration with the NCEC, QCEC continues to engage closely with the Gonski review of school funding which will deliver its final report by the end of the year. Federal Schools Minister Peter Garrett has said that he is aiming to have legislation in place by mid-2012 for a new schools funding model to operate from 2014. The Catholic sector is seeking, as a minimum, no reduction in overall funding in real terms as an outcome of this review.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank colleagues and in particular principals and school community leaders who continue to do vital advocacy work at local levels both in terms of the Gonski review on the Federal scene and in relation to issues at State level ahead of the upcoming election.

I trust 2011 has been a safe and successful year for you. On behalf of my fellow Commission members I offer best wishes for a happy and holy festive season ahead.

Mike Byrne
QCEC Executive Director

Special Taskforce Established to Assist Year 7 to Secondary Move

The Queensland Catholic Education Commission has established a taskforce to play a co-ordinating role in relation to the move of Year 7 to secondary school.

QCEC Executive Director Mike Byrne says the move of Year 7 will be a significant undertaking for Catholic schools with projections indicating that around 11,000 additional students will need to be accommodated in the State's 85 Catholic secondary colleges from 2015.

"While Catholic school authorities have already commenced planning for the move, the formation of this taskforce is an important step in the process," he said.

"The taskforce will provide a forum for the many important conversations that will be necessary both across the Catholic sector and with government.

"Some of the important considerations that have already emerged include the pastoral care needs of the younger students, preparation and training for staff, curriculum implementation, the development of facilities, including those for boarding schools, as well as monitoring any impacts on primary schools.

Mr Byrne said the specific focus of the taskforce on Year 7 would complement the work of existing QCEC committees such as the Capital and Education committees in relation to the move.

"I thank the members of the taskforce for their willingness to assist and I welcome the vast experience they bring," he said.

QCEC Assistant Director Education Mandy Anderson will chair the taskforce that will meet for the first time on 30 November.

QCEC Year 7 to Secondary Co-ordinating Taskforce:

- Mandy Anderson, Chair (Assistant Director Education, QCEC)
- Dale Morrow (Principal, St Rita's College, Clayfield)
- Debra Evans (Coordinator of Teaching and Learning Year 8-10, Mt Alvernia College, Kedron)
- Gayle Cunningham (Assistant Director, Curriculum Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Rockhampton)
- Pam Betts (Director, Administrative Services, Catholic Education, Archdiocese of Brisbane)
- Br Paul Hough FMS (Assistant Executive Director School Development, Diocese of Cairns)
- Ross Horner (Assistant Director School Services, Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Townsville)
- Joanne Segond von Banchet (Assistant Director, Finance, Information Systems and Administration, Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Toowoomba)
- Carmel Nash (Executive Director, Federation of Parents and Friends Associations of Catholic Schools Queensland)
- Bob Knight (Executive Officer Education, QCEC)



From left to right Laurie Bertoldi of Bertoldi Architects, Keynote speaker Dr Loretta Giorcelli, Bill Walsh, NSW Catholic Education Commission and Mike Byrne, Executive Director, QCEC

QCEC Hosts School Planning Conference

Around 90 delegates attended a conference themed 'Communities in the Cloud' - planning for the development of world class Catholic education communities in Cairns from October 3-6.

As part of the conference, delegates visited local schools St Andrew's College, Redlynch and St Thomas of Villanova Parish School and St Stephen's College at Mareeba. A number also took advantage of a pre-conference visit to Torres Strait to examine the particular challenges faced by educators in remote locations such as Hammond Island and Thursday Island.

QCEC Executive Director Mike Byrne said good school planning and design is vital to provide facilities that will best meet the needs of students and teachers in the modern world.

"Designing schools for the internet age is a relatively new, but highly specialised skill, with many ideas and theories still to be fully tested.

"Gatherings like this conference that bring together experts from both the education and design spheres play a significant role in helping discern the best way forward with school planning," he said.



(L-R) Maureen Truasheim, Catholic Education Office, Archdiocese of Brisbane, Ann-Maree d'Abadie, Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Toowoomba and Jan Grajczonek, School of Religious Education, Australian Catholic University

Kindergarten on the Agenda

Around 30 staff responsible for establishing kindergartens on Catholic school sites gathered for a forum at the O'Shea Centre in Brisbane on October 20/21.

The forum covered a wide range of topics from planning and design, through to resourcing and curriculum, to assist Catholic school authorities to successfully develop kindergartens in their dioceses.

The forum program was co-ordinated by QCEC Executive Officer Education Jane Slattery.

In May this year Minister for Education and Industrial Relations Cameron Dick announced funding for 14 kindergarten services to be established on Queensland Catholic school sites by 2013.

The Kindergarten sites announced are:

- Emmaus College, Jimboomba (two services)
- St Anthony's School, Alexandra Hills
- St Francis Xavier School, Goodna
- St Kevin's School, Benowa
- St Mary's School, Beaudesert
- Xavier College, Hervey Bay
- St Joseph's School, Mt Isa
- St Anthony's Catholic College, Deeragun
- St Clare's Catholic School, Burdell
- Ryan Catholic College, Kirwan
- Emmanuel Catholic Primary School, Mackay
- St Joseph's School, North Rockhampton
- St Mary's School, Warwick



Keynote speaker, Associate Professor Caroline Fewster, Bond University



Kathryn Byrne, Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Rockhampton



Alain Pitot and Neville McDonald, Catholic Education Office, Archdiocese of Brisbane

Sectors Collaborate to Plan for Trade Training Centres

The Catholic, State and Independent schooling sectors in Queensland have collaborated to develop a plan aimed at better aligning the provision of trade training centres with community needs and the demographic changes that Queensland will likely encounter.

QCEC Executive Director Mike Byrne says the Catholic sector is pleased to have played a part in developing the plan which establishes a framework for strategic implementation of the *Trade Training Centres in Schools Program* in Queensland.

"Schools play a vital role in providing pathways into the trades for young people and in doing so help build a skilled workforce for the needs of the Queensland economy," Mr Byrne said.

"It makes sense that the three sectors should work collaboratively to best meet the training needs of young people in their communities.

"Importantly, this approach will also help ensure that programs are not unnecessarily duplicated and that resources are used efficiently," he said.

Mr Byrne said the state-wide approach would be co-ordinated by a reference group which included QCEC Manager - Capital Programs Bill Dixon and Executive Officers Wayne Anderson (Funded Programs) and Bob Knight (Education).

To date, Rounds 1, 2 and 3 (2008-2010) of the *Trade Training Centres in Schools Program* have seen the establishment of 54 projects covering 147 Queensland schools from all education sectors at a cost to the Federal government of \$152.8 million.

A further four rounds of the program are expected to be offered.

The *Trade Training Centres in Schools Program - Queensland Jurisdictional Plan 2012* can be accessed on the QCEC website (QCEC and Committees/ responses, reports, submissions).



QCEC Manager - Capital Programs Bill Dixon and Executive Officers Wayne Anderson (Funded Programs) and Bob Knight (Education) represent the Catholic sector on the cross-sectoral reference group

Indigenous student enrolment numbers increase in Catholic schools

August 2011 school census data has shown that the number of Indigenous students attending Queensland's Catholic schools has increased by 33% over the past five years from 3,324 in 2007 to 4,437 in 2011.

The number of Indigenous students as a percentage of all students in the Catholic sector in Queensland has also increased from 2.73% in 2007 to 3.29% in 2011.

QCEC Executive Officer Indigenous Education Jane Ceolin said Catholic schools in Queensland have always been committed to the education of Indigenous children and this data provides strong evidence that this commitment is growing.

"Enrolments in Prep Year have more than doubled from 133 students in 2007 to 288 this year which suggests that overall Indigenous student enrolment numbers will continue to grow.

"As an education jurisdiction, the Catholic sector in Queensland is also a major provider of boarding school opportunities for Indigenous students with some 578 students enrolled across 16 Catholic boarding colleges," she said.

Ms Ceolin said outcomes for Indigenous students across attendance, participation and retention criteria were also continuing to improve within the Catholic sector.

Indigenous students graduating from St Patrick's College, Mackay, Marist College, Emerald, The Cathedral College, Rockhampton, Emmaus College, Rockhampton, St Brendan's College, Yeppoon and St Ursula's College, Yeppoon in the Diocese of Rockhampton came together for a Mass celebrated by Bishop Brian Heenan in St Joseph's Cathedral on 27 October



QCEC Backs Alcohol Education Project

The Queensland Catholic Education Commission has provided funding to support the research and development of curriculum materials, including an online game, aimed at educating secondary school students about responsible use of alcohol.

The collaborative project with Griffith University and the Queensland University of Technology aims to produce resources which are interactive and fun and which will improve adolescents' attitudes towards positive drinking behaviours.

QCEC Executive Director Mike Byrne says that research shows risky and sensation seeking behaviours such as high levels of drinking often arise during late childhood/early adulthood.

"There is ample evidence that irresponsible use of alcohol is a problem among some adolescents.

"The Commission believes this project can make a significant contribution to establishing positive behaviours toward alcohol among young people both while at school and into their adult lives," he said.

Mr Byrne said work on the project including an online game entitled *Game ON: Know Alcohol* commenced earlier this year with research conducted among students from Villanova, San Sisto and Clairvaux MacKillop Colleges in Brisbane.

The project is planned to be completed in three phases over three years (2012-14) with the first phase to include the development of a website incorporating various resources including games, quizzes, educational materials and online surveys.



Associate Professor Sharyn Rundle-Thiele of Griffith University oversees testing of an alcohol education game *Risky Ride* at Villanova College

The second phase will involve trials and evaluation of the package across 20 Catholic schools in Queensland where members of the research team will deliver the *Game ON: Know Alcohol* curriculum in each school over a one day period.

The third and final phase of the project will involve 'train the trainer' sessions across all five Queensland dioceses during 2014.

Associate Professor Sharyn Rundle-Thiele of Griffith University is co-ordinating the project.



Year 9 students from Villanova College, Coorparoo trialled the alcohol education game *Risky Ride* earlier this year

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 www.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



www.qcec.catholic.edu.au