

# Education Policy Committee

Meeting with Member School Principals  
10 August 2018



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# **WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

**(Kitty)**



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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY (Tony)**

In continuing our commitment to Reconciliation and in line with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tradition, it is customary to acknowledge country as we pass through.

Today we acknowledge and pay our respects to the First Peoples, traditional custodians of the lands and waterways, the Dharug/Dharruk people from Strathfield, and thank them for their continued hospitality.

We acknowledge and celebrate the continuation of a living culture that has a unique role in this region.

We also acknowledge Elders past and present as well as our emerging leaders of tomorrow and thank them for their wisdom and guidance as we walk in their footsteps.



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## **The Prayer of Oscar Romero (Anne)**

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.

The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that should be said.

No prayer fully expressed our faith.

No confession brings perfection.



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## **The Prayer of Oscar Romero (Anne)**

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produced effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.



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## **The Prayer of Oscar Romero (Anne)**

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders, Ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future that is not our own.

Amen.

- *Archbishop Oscar Romero*



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## **AGENDA (Kitty)**

The Federation and its Purpose

Education Policy Committee

Profile of Education in NSW/ACT

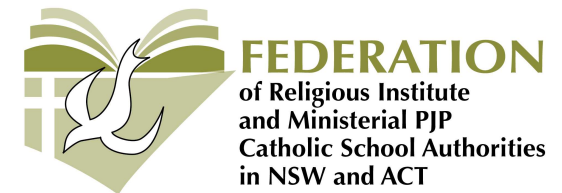
Public Funding

Relationship of Federation with Catholic Schools NSW

Curriculum Issues

Other Business and Discussion

Close



# The Federation and its Purpose (Kitty)

- Established as a Company Limited by Guarantee Under Constitution dated 9 November 2017
- Currently 17 members (being most RIs & PJPs who own schools in NSW or ACT)  
*(a representative is appointed by each member – typically but not necessarily the leader of the RI or PJP)*
- Registered as Charity with ACNC (Australian Charities & Non-Profits Commission)





## The Federation and its Purpose (Kitty)

### **Clause 6 of the Constitution – Objects and Powers**

6.1 - The charitable objects for which the Federation is established are the promotion of religion and education and in particular:

(a) to assist Catholic School Authorities in their role as canonical stewards of Catholic schools in NSW and the ACT;

(b) to bring together the richness of the charisms of the Religious Institute (RI) and Ministerial Public Juridic Person (PJP) school authorities and support their leaders in the ministry of governance;



## The Federation and its Purpose (Kitty)

### **Clause 6 of the Constitution – Objects and Powers**

(c) to be a collaborative network of members and their representatives;

(d) to foster cooperative networks of members and those involved in the governance and leadership of schools;

(e) to provide a forum through which members are informed about, and may develop common positions, on issues affecting them;



## The Federation and its Purpose (Kitty)

### **Clause 6 of the Constitution – Objects and Powers**

(f) to advocate on behalf of members; and

(g) to express the developed common position of members and be the normal representative of members in Catholic and other education structures.

## The Federation and its Purpose (Kitty)

### **What the Federation is NOT**

- A Federation of Schools
- A Federation of Principals
- It recognises the separate and unique governance arrangements that are established by each member RI and PJP



## The Federation and its Purpose (Kitty)

Councillors (also directors and responsible persons) of the Federation are elected by the members.

Initial Councillors are:

Br Paul Oakley cfc – Chair

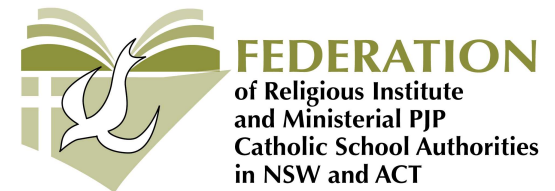
Kitty Guerin – Secretary

Suzanne Fabian – Treasurer

Paul Mastronardi

Dr Frank Malloy

Leonie Keaney



# The Education Policy Committee (Kitty)

Clause 43.5 of the Constitution requires that the Council of the Federation establish an Education Policy Committee.

Terms of Reference are approved by the Council of the Federation.



## The Education Policy Committee (Kitty)

Under the Terms of Reference, the Committee:

- is the point of contact with the Chief Executive Officer and the staff of Catholic Schools NSW;
- nominates and provides proactive support for the representatives on peak Catholic bodies e.g. CSNSW reference groups, CCER and CBGA committees;
- adopts an issues focus rather than a reporting focus;
- is an inclusive and balanced voice on public issues e.g. funding;
- promotes important educational issues;
- liaises with the CRA Education Committee.



## The Education Policy Committee (Kitty)

The Committee Recognises Challenges and Opportunities, including:

- Recognising and working with the existing education entities (CSNSW, CCER, CBGA) to develop the goodwill necessary for the development an inclusive voice;
- Developing a forum and a process to make a contribution to the mission of Catholic education;
- Communicating with the Members, Board Chairs and Principals



## The Education Policy Committee (Kitty)

The Council has appointed the following people as members of the Education Policy Committee:

Kitty Guerin – Chair

Professor Marea Nicholson

Dr Anne Wenham

Jane Curran

John Robinson

Tony Fitzgerald

Jennie Hickey

## Profile of Education in NSW/ACT (Jennie)

- There were 1.28m children in NSW/ACT schools in 2017.
- Of these, 65% attended government schools (834,000),
- 17% attended Catholic systemic schools (217,000),
- 3% attended RI & PJP schools (41,000),
- and 15% attended other independent schools (186,000).

(source ABS 2017)

## Profile of Education in NSW/ACT (Jennie)

- If viewed as a part of the “independent” sector, RI & PJP schools enrol about 18% of the total
- If viewed as a part of the Catholic sector, RI & PJP schools enrol about 16% of the total (3<sup>rd</sup> largest group behind Sydney & Parramatta Dioceses)
- If viewed as a part of the Catholic sector, RI & PJP schools enrol about 30% of the total of secondary students (about 30% more than Sydney Diocese)
- By any of the above measures, collectively RI & PJP schools are significant contributors to education in NSW/ACT



## Public Funding (Greg)

- 24 Australian schools will lose Commonwealth funding in nominal terms over 2019 to 2027
- 21 of these are in NSW/ACT
- 11 are RI/PJP Catholic schools in NSW/ACT
- None are RI/PJP Catholic schools in other states or territories (as they are block funded with the systemic schools)
- The 4 schools suffering the greatest losses are RI/PJP schools in NSW/ACT
- Of the 13 schools suffering the greatest losses, 10 (77%) are RI/PJP schools in NSW/ACT
- Many other RI/PJP schools in NSW/ACT will gain funding in nominal terms but lose funding in real terms.
- What are the drivers of this problem?



## Public Funding (Greg)

- From the 1970's until 2000, school funding in Australia was driven by the level of a school's private income
- Since 2001, Commonwealth funding has been driven by the income and other socio-economics of parents (SES),
- but from 2001 to 2013, schools at risk of losing funding were protected by funding maintenance,
- and from 2014 to 2017 by ministerial discretion (that no school would lose any funding)
- and for 2018 by ministerial discretion (supplementary funding for low or negative funding growth)
- So, funding for many RI/PJP schools has been kept relative to fee levels at the end of last century, despite significant fee increases since then, and despite SES levels.



## Public Funding (Greg)

- At this stage, the changes in Commonwealth funding are expected to take effect from 2019
- NSW funding did not change in 2001, and until 2018 we have seen funding continue to be based upon historic ERI measures.
- The AEA assumes an 80/20 funding share and it is generally expected that states will transition to 20% of SRS from 2019, broadly following the Commonwealth trend for each school.

## Public Funding (Greg)

- Systemic schools are block funded in NSW/ACT
- Most are in low-medium SES areas
- All are low fee
- Block funding benefitted from ERI with deemed category 11 funding for all Catholic systemic schools,
- then deemed SES (96) for all Catholic systemic schools,
- then, weighted average SES (101 for NSW) for all Catholic systemic schools.
- These arrangements saw Catholic systemic schools attract the same per capita grants regardless of SES,
- And therefore allowed them to keep fees relatively low, regardless of SES
- These are the “special deals” that Minister Birmingham refers to
- From 2018, CS schools have attracted their specific SES in determining their CTC, and in turn determining their SRS
- Redistribution difficult to justify in the future



## Public Funding (Greg)

- The 2 big issues in the public domain
- 1 - Promise of additional \$1.7bn  
Where will it be applied?  
Details subject to confidentiality
- 2 - NSRB – Construct of the SES (moving away from CCDs to parents' taxable incomes)
- The next big issue  
What will the states & territories do?
- Another issue for independent schools (including RI/PJP schools), but not systemic schools due to the averaging effect of block funding, is the risk of an increase in SES and its impact for an individual school
- For the first time since its introduction in 2001, an increase in SES may have an immediate and substantial impact upon funding.
- Example, a school with 1000 students shifting from 115 to 116 would lose \$300,000 annually and immediately
- In addition to losses already suffering



## Public Funding (Greg)

- What can we do?
- Keep CSNSW informed about the differences for systemic and RI/PJP schools
- Engage with AIS?
- Comments and discussion?

# Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW) (Marea)

What Services, Communication & Representation for RI & PJP Schools should we expect from CSNSW?

Administration of CBGA and other programs

Support for SWD

Principal, leadership, governance and other professional development

Principal and other leadership development

Teacher accreditation

Legal matters

Child protection matters

HSC, Naplan

Registration and accreditation

Funding support and advocacy

Engaging with NESAs



## Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW) (Marea)

- Representation on Reference Groups
  - Education Policy
  - Resource Effectiveness,
  - VET
  - Special Education
  - ATSI Education
- CSNSW engagement 19 July 2018  
All Catholic Schools not only systemic schools
- Memorandum of Understanding between CSNSW and the Federation



# Curriculum Issues (Jane)

- Engagement with NESAs, AMPJP, CRA, others
- Studies in Catholic Thought
- Managing potential conflicts between curriculum and Catholic teaching
- Other Issues – Jane/Kitty to discuss

## Discussion (Kitty)

- Areas not covered today?
- Where do we belong?
- Entering through the Catholic door?
- How can the Federation best represent, facilitate, support & communicate?

Thank you for your attendance and participation

