



**FEDERATION**  
of Religious Institute  
and Ministerial PJP  
Catholic School Authorities  
in NSW and ACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the Education Policy Committee

held on Zoom on 21 May 2021 at 9:30am.

Present: Kitty Guerin – Committee Chair Jennie Hickey, Marea Nicholson, Tony Fitzgerald, Lee MacMaster, Tony Fitzgerald, Stephen Dwyer.

In Attendance: Michael McDonald

Apologies: Sue Lennox Vittoria Lavorato, Joe Zavone John Robinson

Welcome: Kitty welcomed those present and acknowledged the apologies.

Acknowledgement of Country: Kitty acknowledged the traditional owners of the lands on which the virtual meeting took place and paid respect to the elders, past, present, and emerging.

Prayer: We cry out to you

Conflicts of Interest: In response to enquiry from the Committee Chair, no person present declared any conflict of interest in relation to any agenda item or other matters relating to the Federation.

Previous Minutes: RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2021 was adopted.

Business Arising from the Minutes: Nil.

Items of Discussion

1. Dallas McInerney, Danielle Cronin, and Bob Rush from CSNSW provided updates on a broad range of issues including:
  - a. Consent Education. Dallas reported on the meeting with AHRC. CSNSW, AIS and the Department of Education have provided a response to the consent concerns and consent education.
  - b. Update on Latham Bill. This had become messy in not achieving a clear single catholic response to the Bill. A cautionary tale is the learning.
  - c. Australian Curriculum Review. CSNSW is contributing to the NESA 'whole-of-jurisdiction' submission to ACARA.
  - d. Nominations for NSW Syllabus Development teams. Nominations have been called.

- e. Issue of Indicative Time. Stage 6 programming – Preliminary Course 2020, HSC course 2020/2021 and capacity to meet the 120 hours in a COVID environment in 2020.
- f. Teacher Accreditation and the future of Accreditation Authorities. Various models are being considered including the Victorian model. CSNSW have been meeting with Principals and RI/PJP school authorities to discuss the possible role of CSNSW.
- g. Sport. This has become a particular concern in relation to establishing avenues for state representation by students in RI/PJP schools. Some RI/PJP schools are meeting to determine a way forward.

2. Enterprise Agreement negotiations and Teacher Workload debate.

Concerns remain about CER and the preparation for the next round of EAs. The Federation Council will be meeting Ann Cummins at its June meeting to discuss the EA process and the relationship with CER. The Federation will again raise the issue with CER.

3. ACT Report- No report as Joe Zavone was an apology.

4. CORMSAA on Educational governance – the finalisation of the document has not been completed following consultations with members.

The Committee had a further discussion about the Parents Rights Bill. The purpose of the legislation is counter the work to date in Schools in assisting students and parents. It is counter human dignity and inclusiveness of school communities. For the student it can lead to mental health issues. It was suggested that perhaps at the next Principals' Briefing, Father Joseph Parkinson might provide some a session. This is to be followed up.

Next meeting 16 July 2021

The meeting concluded 11.30 a.m.

