



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

**REPORT OF CHAIR OF COUNCIL
TO
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
15 NOVEMBER 2022**

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The Federation of Religious Institute and Ministerial PJP Catholic School Authorities in NSW and ACT Ltd (**Federation**) is established to represent the interests of these authorities and their schools in the increasingly complex and dynamic educational context.

The Federation is committed, with other Catholic School Authorities, to the following principles:

- a) Catholic education shares in realising God's mission in the Church.
- b) Each Catholic school is a particular expression of the Church's service of this mission and an integral part of its local Diocese and of the Universal Church.
- c) The ecclesial imperatives of collegiality and subsidiarity define the mutual relationships that exist among all the Catholic School Authorities within the Federation.
- d) Catholic School Authorities within the Federation acknowledge and value the interdependence that should prevail among them, in the interests of the common good of the Catholic education sector.
- e) While each authority governs its school(s) with due autonomy and freedom, all accept a share of responsibility for contributing to the vitality and viability of the ongoing work and growth of Catholic education.

The Federation follows on and benefits from the work and leadership of the Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes of NSW (CLRINSW) undertaken through its Education Committee. In recognition of the autonomy of members, it provides a mechanism to seek a common voice.

Preamble, Constitution of Federation of RI & PJP Catholic School Authorities in NSW and ACT Ltd

Introduction

In 2022 the Federation has continued to work as a constructive partner in Catholic education in NSW. The contributions of the Executive Officer, Mr Michael McDonald AO, is recognized with deep appreciation, as is the dedication and commitment of the Council members Nicole Christensen, Jane Comensoli, Kitty Guerin, and Marita Winters. Kathy Freeman's retirement from the Council is noted with appreciation.

The Federation's Strategic Plan and Proposed Constitutional Changes

In response to the Member's Survey in 2021, significant work has been undertaken this year by Council in the development of a Strategic Plan for the Federation. As the Federation looks ahead it is vital that strategic directions are established and shared among stakeholders. In particular the work of Michael McDonald, Jane Comensoli, and Marita Winters is highlighted with appreciation, in their generous contributions to the Strategic Plan Committee. The Strategic Plan is attached along with the document: Proposed Amendments to the Federation Constitution (PART A) and related information (PART B) AGM 15 November 2022. The proposed amendments to the Constitution are on the AGM Agenda for Member's consideration. The Federation Council has unanimously approved the proposed amendments and seeks the approval of the Members. The proposed changes will provide for a change in name effective from 1 January 2024 and provision for an Memorandum of Understanding with Catholic Schools NSW. The proposed amendments to the Constitution are self-explanatory however we will have time to discuss them prior to them being put to Members.

Education Policy Committee

The Education Policy Committee continues to prove to be a most constructive instrument in discussing issues and providing very clear advice to Catholic Schools NSW as well as to each other. Under Kitty Guerin's faithful leadership, the Education Policy Committee works closely with CSNSW on a range of matters and provides valuable grassroots insight to a host of issues. The members are acknowledged with deep appreciation for their generous service to this important work.

Catholic Schools New South Wales Review

With the establishment of CSNSW was the undertaking to have an external review of the new organization after 5 years. This review has been conducted by the Honorable John Watkins, Ms Pam Betts, and Ms Gabrielle McMullen. The Federation Council and the Education Policy Committee contributed to the Review. A major emphasis stemming from the Federation's engagement was the need for two areas to be addressed:

- i. For the CSNSW Constitution to be changed to more accurately reflect the role of RI/MPJP Schools and the Federation in NSW. Included in these changes would be representation at the Board level of Directors with a close understanding of and appreciation for the RI/MPJP schools and education authorities.
- ii. The development of a Memorandum of Understanding between CSNSW and the Federation.

Feedback was also provided regarding the importance of harmonious relationships within Catholic education across the State and the need to continually build upon the foundational guidance provided by Catholic Social Teaching. As the Bishops are the Members of CSNSW, the need for their influence in this regard is apparent.

Committee of Religious Institute and Ministerial PJP School Authorities Australia (CORMSAA) and the National Catholic Education Commission

CORMSAA continues to find its voice in Catholic education nationally. The Federation contributes to CORMSAA significantly through Frank Malloy and importantly Marea Nicholson. Marea is a member of the Federation's Education Policy Committee and importantly is the RI/MPJP representative on the National Catholic Education Commission. Marea is a most diligent member of NCEC and provides regular opportunity to influence key decisions at the national level. The CORMSAA Position Paper regarding RI/MPJP schools distributed to Bishops and Diocesan Directors in 2021 is proving to be an important reference document that is educative for many in leadership roles in Catholic education.

NSW Catholic Sport competitions

Throughout 2021 and 2022, Nicole Christensen has been working tirelessly to ensure schools governed by Members of the Federation in the Sydney basin have access to appropriate sporting competitions. This issue has become an increasing problem in some sports, particularly for girls as the Sydney Archdiocese remodels the manner in which sport is conducted across their schools. Whilst there is still an enormous amount of work and negotiating to occur, Nicole's leadership is noted with appreciation.

CSNSW Stakeholder Day Catholic Schools – Workforce.

On Wednesday May 11 2022 CSNSW held a Stakeholders Day exploring issues related to challenges facing schools and education authorities in the current context of teacher shortage. The Federation Chair provided input as background to commence the day along with the Chair of the Diocesan Directors, Mr Peter Hill. It was a significant gathering and well organized by CSNSW senior officer Danielle Cronin.

Catholic Schools New South Wales per capita student levy increase

Following close consultation by Dallas McInerney, the CSNSW levy per student will be increased in 2023 from \$10 to \$13.53. The CSNSW (formerly CEC NSW) fee was \$9.00 from 2012- 2014, \$9.50 in 2015, and has been \$10.00 from 2016 – 2022. The 2023 increase has been calculated based on relevant CPI data since 2016.

CSNSW offers and provides a range of educational and support services to membership including:

1. Media and Research Driven Advocacy
2. Education Policy, Reform and Regulation
3. Data Analytics Support
4. Financial Resources and Support
5. Catholic Block Grant Authority
6. Compliance and Legal Services
7. Copyright Services

Catholic Employment Relations

Reports from schools and the different education authorities are positive in relation to the quality of service offered by CER. The pay for service arrangements which will increasingly become uniquely tailored for schools and organisations are transitioning smoothly in most cases. The relationship of the Executive Director Ian Yard-Smith with the Federation continues to be constructive and strong.