



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 16 November 2023 at 9:30am.

Present: Kitty Guerin (Chair) Sue Lennox, Sr Margaret Ghosn, Jennie Hickey,
Stephen Dwyer Vittoria Lavorato, Tony Fitzgerald

In Attendance: Michael McDonald

Apologies: Marea Nicolson

Welcome: Kitty welcomed those present and acknowledged the apologies.

Acknowledgement of Country: Sue 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: An Urgent Prayer for Peace. Caritas

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 12 October 2023 was adopted.

Business Arising from the Minutes: No other no other matters arising from the minutes.

Items from the Agenda.

- i. 9.45 a.m. CER EA Negotiations. Mr Chris Owens joined the meeting. Chris provided a brief description of the current offers and in principle agreements reached with Model A, B and C schools. Also, support staff agreements have been finalised. The Fair Work processes will be activated once the agreements at finalised in writing. It is unclear what the position is for Coordinator points.

Concerns exist about the position adopted by Broken Bay in salary negotiations, i.e., it will pay a 1.5% premium above the DOE. The effect is that it drives up teacher salary inflation. CER will review its processes once the salaries are settled. It was proposed that a small group of RI/PJP school principals should be formed to facilitate future salary preparations. Business Managers should not be involved in online meetings where salary negotiations are being discussed.

- ii. 10.15 a.m. CSNSW. Audrey Bower joined the meeting and addressed several issues relating to the s 83 C and Regulatory Review. There is likely no change to the s 83c legislation. The key issues for CSNSW are:
 - a. Materiality thresholds
 - b. Increasing corporatisation and the payment of Directors
 - c. Recognition of Systems into the Act.

Regulatory Review

CSNSW is seeking certainty about audit processes. Limiting the investigation scope and the provision of natural fairness. An advice/telephone hotline is to be set up. Require further understanding of mission and ethos as an area of expenditure. Also, areas for clarification include conflicts of interests, reasonable market value and shared services as the basis for charging. CSNSW has two PD models online. The Commonwealth will be ramping up audits as has employed additional staff. The front-page test triggers the interest of the Commonwealth.

There will be regulation of out of school care.

RI/PJPS can contribute to the review. CSNSW will prepare a fact sheet for governing bodies.

- iii. ACT Report Nil
- iv. CORMSAA Report. Nil.
- v. EPC Review. The Council is reviewing membership of the EPC to renew it. Some natural change will take place and some members have been part of the Committee for some time. The Council would like to broaden RI/PJP membership. The Council will further the review at its next meeting.

vi. Thank you to Sue Lennox who is retiring and to the Committee and Michael. Best wishes to all for the coming Christmas session.

Close of Meeting 11.00 a.m.