



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN EDUCATION LIMITED

On 14 February 2025 the Board of Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Education Limited appointed Mr David de Carvalho as the Executive Director of Catholic Education.

Following a national and international search facilitated by recruitment company KornFerry, the Board had the privilege of selecting David from a very strong field of candidates. David is well known to many within Catholic Education, and the Education sector more broadly. He is presently the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Theology, Philosophy and Education at the University of Notre Dame Australia. He has held the positions of Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (**ACARA**); Chief Executive Officer, NSW Education Standards Authority (**NESA**) and Chief Executive Officer of the National Catholic Education Commission (**NCEC**). In these roles he has shaped the national educational landscape in terms of the National Curriculum, modernisation of the NAPLAN assessment, reform of the NSW Higher School Certificate and, more recently, the development of new Initial Teacher Education programs, including in Early Childhood Education.

His long career in service to the Australian educational and Catholic communities commenced as a teacher at Xavier College in Melbourne before working with Good Shepherd Youth and Family Service then moving into leadership roles in the Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission, followed by senior roles in the Australian Public Service including the Departments of The Treasury, Health and Ageing, Finance, Education, and Prime Minister and Cabinet. David has also held a number of governance roles, including as one of the foundation directors of Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Education Limited and as a member of the NESA Board, the Asia Education Foundation and of Marist Schools Australia Board.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse noted David's long and deep experience in education but also his depth of faith commenting, "David's commitment to the evangelising mission of the Church has been a consistent feature of his personal, family, public and ecclesial roles. He is well-versed in the Church's social teaching and believes that outreach to the most vulnerable and marginalised should be a hallmark of Catholic education." Archbishop Prowse also noted the significance of this appointment for the new Education entity, "Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Education Limited, is one expression of the Archdiocese's understanding of synodal process, decision-making and accountability. David's appointment as Executive Director marks a significant step in our unfolding synodal journey in Catholic Education."

In accepting his appointment, David said, “I am very much looking forward to getting to know and working closely with the leaders and staff of our 56 schools and 9 early learning centres, and our parish priests, as we continue to offer the gift of Catholic education to all families living in the Archdiocese. Our Australian society has never been more in need of this gift, which offers not only excellent academic outcomes, but more importantly a Christ-centred vision of humanity, life and learning as oriented to all that is true and beautiful and good.”

Dr McArdle, Chair of Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Education Limited expressed his appreciation to David for accepting this appointment and noted that he would commence in the role by the middle of the year. He also offered his thanks to Ms Pam Betts who has been acting as Executive Director during the search process and who will continue in the position until David commences. “Pam is one of the outstanding leaders of Catholic Education over the last 20 years, her service to the Church and to the students who are at the heart of Catholic Education has been unwavering. The Board is deeply grateful that she responded so positively to our request for assistance to ensure the new company was able to commence seamlessly and under such able leadership. We are thrilled that Pam will be able to hand over to such a gifted and highly experienced educator. David is a noted leader who has shaped education policy and practise from the classroom and initial teacher formation to the national stage. Further, he has contributed so positively to the conversation about the centrality of our Catholic identity and culture to education and human flourishing. It is an auspicious start for Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Education Limited, to have had the service of two phenomenal leaders from the outset.

David and his wife, Andrea, have spent many years in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn where Andrea has previously been a teacher in our system and they are looking forward to returning to Canberra and the service of the Archdiocese this year.

Archbishop Christopher, the Board and the Catholic Education community of the Archdiocese welcomes David to the position of Executive Director, and looks forward to walking with David as he takes up this ministry of evangelisation and leadership in the service of Catholic Education and, particularly the students in our care.

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