



CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION ***Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn***

Catholic Education Commission Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Summary of Report held on 13 October 2015

MAJOR AGENDA ITEMS

CEC SCHOOL FEE WORKING PARTY RECOMMENDATIONS

The CEC established a working party to review the current school fee structure and level of fees in the context of the new Australian Education Act 2013 and Australian Education Regulations 2013 and the related new school funding model.

The CEC approved the CEC School Fee Working Party recommendations to the Archbishop for approval.

SYSTEM BUDGET 2016

Key budget drivers used in the proposed 2016 budget are:

- An estimate of enrolments - based on predicted enrolments for staffing purposes and August 2015 Census results and trends.
- A 3% increase in Tuition Fees (approved by the CEC Executive).
- Salary increases in line with the new enterprise agreements.
- Preliminary school staffing estimates based on predicted enrolments.
- A 5% increase on 2015 CEO Administration and Program expenses – subject to further analysis and discussion.

The CEC recommended the 2016 System Budget to the Archdiocesan Finance Council for approval by the Archbishop

CCSBF BUDGET

The proposed 2016 CCSBF Budget has been recommended to the Commission by the CEC Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

The CEC recommended the CCSBF Budget for 2016 to the CCSBF Trustees for approval.

TUITION FEES 2016

The CEC endorsed the CEC Executive decision to recommend a 3% increase in tuition fees and CCSBF family contribution for 2016 to the Archbishop for approval.

PRESCHOOL FEES 2016

ELCs cannot be financially supported by 'Education' funding and must, as a group, be self-sufficient. The ELC fees are set to achieve a balance between recovering costs and remaining competitive. Fees are benchmarked against other commercial providers and school-based preschools.

The CEC endorsed the CEC Executive decision to recommend to the Archbishop the Early Learning Centre fee structure for 2016.

FINAL AUGUST CENSUS REPORT

The August Census results now determine the vast bulk of recurrent public funding under the new Commonwealth grants distribution model.

The following table presents a summary of the Census results against August 2014 and February 2015 results, including approved 'special circumstances' students (eg. long term absences):

Sector	Aug 14	Feb 15	Aug 15	Var Aug 14	Var Feb 15
ACT Primary	8,683	8,724	8,714	31	-10
ACT Secondary	5,196	5,395	5,301	105	-94
NSW Primary	4,362	4,431	4,409	47	-22
NSW Secondary	2,714	2,692	2,634	-80	-58
Total	20,955	21,242	21,058	103	-184

PERCENTAGE OF NON-CATHOLIC ENROLMENTS

The CEC discussed the Catholic School Profiles for both the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and across Australia.

After discussion it was agreed that the CEC would establish a Working Party to investigate the non-Catholic enrolment trends in the Archdiocese and report back to the CEC.

PROVISION OF LAND IN MOLONGLO

The CEC noted the letter sent to the Chief Minister in relation to a meeting to discuss the provision of land in Molonglo.

The CEC expressed its concern that a response had not been received from the Chief Minister in relation to a meeting following a request made by the Archbishop in August 2015.

SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

The CEC noted that the CEO Director has met with other Catholic agencies in relation to how Catholic education can assist the current crisis in Europe. Mrs Najdecki has indicated that the Syrian Refugees will be provided with a waiving of school fees, as needed. It was noted that this provision will be in line with any Australian government regulations in terms of Visas.

INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND SAFEGUARDING

The Archbishop has asked that wherever possible agencies across the Archdiocese share services in order to maximise economies of scale. Earlier this year, the CEO responded to a request to provide a cost estimate for maintaining ICT services to the Archdiocese. The CEO and the Chancery are considering future media and communications pathways and will also look to possibilities for payroll and HR services.

Currently, a proposal that an Institute for Professional and Standards and Safeguarding be established is under consideration.

The CEC members discussed both the proposal presented to the Catholic Education Office by the Archdiocese and the response made by Moira Najdecki. It was agreed the Commission Executive would write to the Archbishop seeking clarification on a number of issues presented in the paper.

DISTRUBUTION OF FUNDING BY NSWCEC

The CEC discussed at length the distribution of funding across NSW/ACT Dioceses. The briefing provided to the Archbishop in relation to concerns raised about the distribution method was tabled for the CEC to note.

DRAFT CEC WORKPLAN 2016

The CEC noted the 2016 Draft Wok plan and Meeting dates 2016.