



Archbishop's Office
GPO Box 89
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia

Friday 29th April 2016

CATHOLIC EDUCATION NSW/ACT

Dear Friends,

Please find attached a communique from Bishop Peter Comensoli, Chair of the Catholic Education Commission of NSW.

The communique notes that the Bishops of NSW and the ACT have begun a process to investigate a renewed model of governance and administration for Catholic education across NSW. It aims to provide the Catholic school system with the best possible structures into the future. A Taskforce to undertake this investigation is in the process of being established. I will inform you later in the year of the progress and recommendations of the Taskforce described in the accompanying letter.

The Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn is unique in its coverage of both NSW and ACT jurisdictions. For Catholic Education in Canberra Goulburn any changes to the governing authority will only relate to our NSW schools.

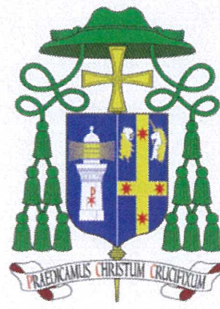
Be assured that I, together with Moira Najdecki, Director of Catholic Education, am committed to ensuring the best possible outcomes for students in our wonderful Archdiocesan schools.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

The Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

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We proclaim a crucified Christ
1Cor1.23

A communique on Catholic schooling in NSW to diocesan and educational leaders

(Embargoed until 9am, Friday 29 April, 2016)

Catholic schooling in NSW has been one of the great jewels in the crown of the Catholic community since the 1830s, and a true gift to our State. Our schools and staff, our students and their families, are a source of genuine pride to us, the Archbishops and Bishops of NSW and the ACT. This pride motivates us to work for the best outcomes in faith formation and all-round education for every student entrusted to our schools.

Walking with the great depth and breadth of expertise offered by Catholic educationalists in our schools and diocesan offices, the bishops are firmly committed to continuing along a path of growth and renewal for Catholic schooling. To this end, the Bishops have recently begun a process of investigating a renewed model of governance and administration. We are seeking to provide for our school system the best structures possible into the future, as is appropriate for any large organization after several decades of operating under the same governance model.

As an initial step, the Bishops commissioned an external review of our current structures, which we received earlier this month. The review has suggested a number of helpful insights worth pursuing, and which will now require our serious study and deliberation. To aid us in this task, the Bishops have established a Taskforce of experts in education, administration, law and governance to help us discern best practice in the governing and resourcing of our Catholic schools, no matter their location. After an extensive process of consultation, the Taskforce will report back to us in November this year.

It is important to the Bishops that, whatever preferred structure may emerge, it builds on the strengths of our systems to date and our excellent leaders and staff. We will retain our governing authority over the system of Catholic schools, while examining if there would be value in considering a single governance structure for the State. We also want to ensure the resources schools receive from government grants and family contributions are equitably and efficiently distributed, according to need. We understand and accept that authorities and parents need to be confident that Catholic schools throughout NSW will continue to receive great value for money.

The Bishops are deeply committed to seeking the best ways possible of enhancing the educational and faith outcomes of our children. In undertaking this process of review and renewal, we are confident that we will be providing an even better education to our young people. May the Good Shepherd guide our deliberations, and may St Mary of the Cross take this journey with us.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Bishops' Delegate and Taskforce Chair