

2019



Annual  
Report



A large, blue, modern-style cross stands on a two-tiered wooden base in a grassy field. A woman with red hair is leaning over the base of the cross. In the foreground, several students in school uniforms are sitting on the grass, some looking towards the cross. The background shows a vast landscape of trees and rolling hills under a clear sky.

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## NICHOLAS MOORE

Chair, National Catholic Education Commission



I was pleased to accept the invitation by the Chair of the Bishops Commission for Education, Archbishop of Sydney Anthony Fisher OP, to take on the role of Chair of the National Catholic Education Commission at the start of 2020.

It's a remarkable achievement that Catholic education has successfully responded to meet the needs of Australia's changing population, and economic and social circumstances over 200 years.

From very humble beginnings, Catholic education has grown to become the single largest school sector outside of government, educating some 764,000 - or one in five students - across 1,746 schools and employing over 96,000 staff in 2019.

I admire the sacrifices and resourcefulness of our predecessors - clergy, religious and lay people - who built a strong foundation and rich tradition of Catholic schooling with very little government support in the early years.

Thankfully, through determined advocacy and engagement, the Catholic sector has been

able to secure and maintain government funding of Catholic schools. This ensures Australian families have the choice of a faith-based education for their children, in large towns and small, across the country.

As we head towards the celebration of this milestone, it's timely to take stock of all that has been achieved and to look ahead to identify how we can better deliver an excellent standard of Catholic schooling for generations of young people to come.

2019 was a period of significant leadership transition with the appointment of former Senator Jacinta Collins to the role of National Executive Director in February, followed by the appointment of Deputy Director Peter Hamill in August.

With this leadership in place, the Commission will be entering a new strategic phase focusing on supporting state and territory education commissions and our school systems to consolidate, improve and expand our delivery of Catholic schooling.

Our national priorities will be guided by an evidenced-based approach to:

- Enliven faith formation and religious education

- Support the continual improvement of educational outcomes for all students, and
- Respond to the needs of families through strong advocacy for recurrent and capital funding, legislation and policy.

The focus on improvement is critical for Catholic schools to continue to best serve students from all backgrounds, particularly those who are disadvantaged or require additional learning support. Like all organisations who strive for excellence, we need to strengthen what we do well, and identify ways to improve those areas where we haven't been performing. This requires honest reflection, targeted approaches for improvement, and a willingness to learn from, and share, best practice across the country and across the world.

We will need to show the same tenacity and resourcefulness as those that came before us, to meet the current and future needs of our students and school communities in a period of significant economic and global uncertainty.

On behalf of the Commission, I am pleased to commend the 2019 Annual Report and look forward to building on this work with a clear focus for the future.

# Chair's Report

“From very humble beginnings, Catholic education has grown to become the single largest school sector outside of government”



## JACINTA COLLINS

Executive Director, National  
Catholic Education Commission

My first year as Executive Director of the National Catholic Education Commission has been one of reward and challenge. It's been a time of listening and connecting with state and territory commissions, dioceses, school communities, and various education, parent and government bodies, to understand the key issues for Catholic education, and to determine future directions.

As you will read in the following pages, 2019 was a significant period of advocacy and engagement with the Federal Election, and the need to secure and finalise fair funding arrangements with the government to give our school communities greater certainty. Central to this work has been our involvement in the development of a new funding measure to more equitably assess parents' capacity to contribute to Catholic schooling.

At the national level, we have been engaged in a number of reviews and consultations including the Plenary Council, Religious Freedom, NAPLAN reporting, the National School Resourcing Board's reviews of approved system authorities and students with disability, and the review of senior secondary pathways, to name a few.

2019 marked the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. In this context, it was timely for Australia to review the Melbourne Declaration outlining the educational goals for Australian schooling. Our contribution to the new *Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration* highlighted the spiritual and pastoral needs of young people, as well as their academic and developmental needs.

The Catholic sector had significant representation on a number of national committees and working groups, through the generous support of representatives from our state and territory commissions and schools systems. This active engagement ensures government and educational bodies recognise and consider the distinctive differences and needs of Catholic schools in developing educational policy and other initiatives.

I was also able to have a number of productive meetings and conversations with several Catholic Education Commissions and diocesan bodies and I look forward to future opportunities to establish strong links and collaboration across the Catholic sector.

One of the most enjoyable parts of my role has been visiting diocesan and school communities across Australia. I was pleased to be able to travel to regional communities and metropolitan areas across Australia, where I saw the distinct differences, but also the shared mission of our schools first-hand. Core to this mission is our commitment to religious education and faith formation, not only of our students and staff, but also in partnership with the families we are here to serve.

As we look ahead, particularly to our celebration of 200 years of Catholic education, we will be refining our strategic priorities and the work of the national secretariat to ensure we are providing effective support and advocacy for the needs of our systems and schools.

I am deeply grateful for the support and leadership of the Bishops Conference and our Chair Nicholas Moore. I thank our commissioners and all those who represent Catholic education on national committees and working parties for their contribution, and extend my sincere appreciation to Deputy Director Peter Hamill and the team in the secretariat for their hard work during a significant period of transition.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of outgoing Chair Greg Crafter AO who served on the National Catholic Education Commission for seven years. Greg has made a significant contribution to Catholic education and the Church over many decades, as well as in education as a South Australian Member of Parliament and Education Minister. He has been an incredible support to me during my first year as National Executive Director, and I wish him well in his future endeavours.

Finally, I would like to commend the 2019 Annual Report to you and congratulate all those who have contributed to the many achievements outlined in this report.

# Executive Director's Report

Catholic schools have been serving Australian families for 200 years.



768.295

STUDENTS

98.402

STAFF

1.751

SCHOOLS



# Leadership



## Leadership appointments

In February 2019, former federal Labor Senator from Victoria, Jacinta Collins, was appointed to the role of Executive Director of the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) by the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education.

The Chair of the Bishops Commission for Education, Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, welcomed Jacinta to the role:

“Jacinta will bring a number of skills to the role, including a deep understanding of the values that underpin Catholic education and a commitment to promoting the place of Catholic schools within Australia’s high-quality educational context.”

Then NCEC Chair Greg Crafter AO said Jacinta is renowned as a strong advocate for social justice and quality education across all sectors:

“Jacinta brings a wealth of experience, skills and dedication to the role. Since entering the Senate in 1995, she has held several leadership roles and has served on the frontbench in the portfolios of school education, early childhood, workplace relations, mental health and aging.

Archbishop Anthony thanked retired Director of Schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Ray Collins who was the interim Executive Director throughout 2018 and until Jacinta commenced the role on 18 February 2019.

“Ray’s decades of experience as an educator and educational leader were invaluable during important negotiations to secure fair funding for Catholic schools. We wish Ray well as he resumes retirement.”

In August 2019, former Director of Schools, Diocese of Broken Bay Peter Hamill was appointed as the NCEC’s Deputy Director.

Peter (*pictured above*) has a wealth of experience and understanding of Catholic education and administration, having served as an educator, school and system leader for over 43 years.

“In his most recent role, Peter has been responsible for leading a system of 44 schools and 1,600 staff; setting the strategic vision and direction for Catholic education in the Diocese; and ensuring sound stewardship of limited resources within a challenging and changing landscape,” Jacinta said at the time of his appointment.

“I congratulate and welcome Peter and look forward to working with him on this new chapter of national leadership of Catholic education, and in delivering on our commitment to promote the place and value of Catholic schools as a key contributor to high quality Australian education.”

*Below: NCEC Executive Director Jacinta Collins with students from Domremy College, Five Dock.*





# \$3.7 billion

is contributed by families towards the cost of their children's education which includes school fees and other contributions.



# Advocacy

## Federal election campaign

The 2019 Federal election campaign was a key period of advocacy for Catholic education.

With the support of state and territory commissions, diocesan offices, schools communities and parent bodies, the Catholic sector raised awareness of the significant issues facing Catholic schools, namely:

- The need for increased capital funding
- More resources for early childhood education
- Religious freedom in schools

In the lead up to the election on 18 May 2019, the NCEC lobbied for increased funding for capital works, additional resources for early learning and to protect religious freedoms to help ease the financial burden of capital works on school communities, better serve the needs of families and ensure Catholic education can continue to fulfil its faith-based mission.

In 2017, Catholic school communities funded almost 90 per cent of the capital works in schools – nearly \$1.3 billion – while the federal and state governments jointly provided \$152.2 million across 1,746 schools. To put this in perspective, the New South Wales government spent 10 times this amount - \$1.5 billion each year - on capital works in its 2,200 schools.

## SUBMISSIONS

In 2019, the NCEC made a number of submissions to a range of government reviews and proposed reforms to highlight the needs and challenges facing Catholic schools across Australia.

These were:

- [Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability](#) (Dec 2019)
- [Review of Senior Secondary Pathways](#) (Dec 2019)



- [Federal Government Pre-budget Submission 2020-2021](#) (Dec 2019)
- [Human Rights Commission's National Conversation on Human Rights](#) (Nov 2019)
- [Reforms to Religious Freedom Legislation](#) (Oct 2019)
- [Australian National Audit Office Audit of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission](#) (Sept 2019)
- [National School Resourcing Board Review Students with Disabilities](#) (Aug 2019)
- [National School Resourcing Board Review Approved System Authorities](#) (Jun 2019)
- [Melbourne Declaration](#) (Jun 2019)
- [NAPLAN Reporting Review](#) (Mar 2019)

Some of these submissions are outlined in greater detail below.

## Federal Budget 2020-21

In December 2019, NCEC's pre-budget submission acknowledged the support of the federal government in funding Catholic schools and outlined a number of key challenges, including:

- The capital demands of Australia's increasing school-aged population on Australia's Catholic schools
- The need for recurrent and capital investment to improve access to early learning opportunities in Australia's Catholic schools

- Ensuring sufficient funding for Indigenous boarding schools particularly in the Northern Territory and Queensland.

NCEC's submission made a number of recommendations to the government, including:

- Increasing the funding allocated to non-government schools to meet the future capital needs of Catholic schools
- Reviewing the capital funding provisions of the Australian Education Act 2013
- Allocating a pool of funds to support the capital costs associated with the construction and maintenance of teacher housing in rural and remote Catholic schools across Australia
- Implementing the recommendations of [Lifting our game: Report of the review to achieve educational excellence in Australian schools](#) through early childhood interventions, particularly with respect to funding universal early childhood education in the two years preceding foundation year of schooling
- Allocating a pool of funds to support the capital costs associated with the establishment and maintenance of early childhood education facilities on existing Catholic school sites
- Ensuring Catholic schools can continue to operate Indigenous boarding schools in the Northern Territory and Queensland.





## Review of Educational Goals

The Education Council established the [Review of the Melbourne Declaration Goals for Young Australians](#) in 2019. The review focused on the two key goals of the declaration to promote equity and excellence in Australian schooling, and to ensure all young Australians are successful learning, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens.

The NCEC's submission in June 2019 suggested a number of revisions to the goals highlighting the importance of the role of parents, carers and families; acknowledging the positive contribution of faith-based schooling to spiritual and moral development for individual students and the common good; and the importance of early education.

At the Education Council meeting in December 2019, federal, state and territory education ministers signed the new [Alice Springs \(Mparntwe\) Education Declaration](#).

## Religious Freedom

Religious freedom was an important focus for the work of the NCEC throughout 2019.

The Australian Law Reform Commission's review of religious exemptions in anti-discrimination law commenced in April 2019. However, following the release of the Australian Government's religious freedom legislation, it was put on hold pending the outcome of the legislation.

In August 2019, the government released a draft Religious Discrimination Bill 2019 along with two other Bills making related and associated amendments, including:

- Making it unlawful to discriminate against others on the basis of their religious belief or activity

- Allowing religious bodies to continue to operate in accordance with their beliefs
- Providing some general protection to "statements of belief" that might be attacked as discrimination

In October 2019, the NCEC lodged a submission to the Attorney General working in close collaboration with the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

The NCEC sought clarity on some aspects of the legislation and made a case to ensure Catholic schools are free to:

- Hold Catholic beliefs and express them in their day-to-day operations
- Speak, preach and teach the tenets and beliefs they hold without hindrance from the state or unnecessary litigation
- Give preference to the enrolment of students baptised in the Catholic faith
- Give preference to employing staff who are baptised Catholics or are supportive of the teachings of the Catholic Church.

## NAPLAN reporting review

In March 2019, the NCEC made a submission to the NAPLAN reporting review undertaken by Professor Bill Loudon. The NCEC highlighted a number of considerations including whether the presentation of NAPLAN data aligns with the purposes of NAPLAN; drives improvements to educational outcomes; and complies with its original objectives.

The submission also recommended a broader review into all aspects of NAPLAN be established which ideally should consider the:

- Purpose, the intention and utility of national assessment in all schools
- Form of that assessment
- Ability of national assessment to drive actual improvements in student learning
- Aim of increased accountability and transparency in school education.

In 2021, the Catholic Church in Australia will gather for the first Plenary Council to be held since the second Vatican Council.

With the theme, "Listen to what the Spirit is saying", the journey to Plenary commenced in 2018 beginning with a Listening and Dialogue phase.

Over 222,000 people participated contributing 17,457 submissions, in response to three questions:

- What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?
- What questions do you have about the future of the Church that you would like the Council to consider?
- What are your stories of your experience of faith, or of the Church in Australia, that you would like to share?

In March 2019, the National Catholic Education Commission contributed an [initial submission](#) to the Plenary Council, highlighting:

- God is asking us (NCEC) to be even clearer and more effective in our Catholic Mission and Identity in our schools and school systems.
- We are being called by God to develop the skills of our teachers as teachers so that the education provided is of the highest standard.
- We are being called by God to develop the partnerships, links and better movement between schools and families and between schools and Sunday worshipping communities, including providing opportunities for adult faith formation.
- We also require long-term equitable funding so that we can achieve these goals. God is asking the NCEC to work together across our dioceses and states for the good of all students in Catholic schools.



# \$1.5 billion

or almost 90% of capital works was funded by Catholic school communities in 2018, while the federal and state governments jointly provided \$161 million.





# Engagement

## School Policy Group

The School Policy Group (SPG) is an advisory group to the Australian Education Senior Officials Committee, which advises the Education Council, comprising Education Ministers from across Australia. SPG is made up of representatives from federal, state and territory Departments of Education, the NCEC and the independent schools sector. Executive Director Jacinta Collins, her 2019 proxy Queensland Catholic Education Commission Executive Director Dr Lee-Anne Perry AM, and Deputy Director Peter Hamill are the Catholic sector's participants on the SPG.

During 2019, there were four SPG meetings and several out of session processes focused on a number of national policy initiatives:

- Learning Progressions and Online Formative Assessment
- Initial education of teachers
- National Evidence Institute
- Teacher accreditation systems
- Review of Senior Secondary Pathways
- Implementation of the Unique Student Identifier
- Review of the Australian Curriculum.

SPG also received regular updates during 2019 from the Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority and the Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership on projects such as NAPLAN Online and the National Teacher Workforce project.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

In 2019, the NCEC continued its focus on supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. A national Catholic education network was formed to guide this work comprising members from all our states and territories. The NCEC had constructive discussions with the Australian Government regarding a number of issues including ABSTUDY support, particularly in boarding schools in remote and regional areas. Executive Director Jacinta Collins appeared at a Senate Inquiry into the Bill, and while

generally supportive of the government's approach, informed the Committee of some concerns with ABSTUDY and the impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Catholic schools.

## Catholic Education National Director Forum

The Catholic Education National Director Forum was held twice in 2019 and comprises the Diocesan Directors of Catholic education from all dioceses, the Chairs of the Catholic Principals Associations, and the Deputy Chair of Catholic School Parents Australia.

The NCEC provides updates to the forum on educational policy issues at the national level and is an opportunity to exchange ideas and information between participants. At the first meeting in Sydney in March 2019 newly-appointed Executive Director Jacinta Collins discussed her desire for an active and constructive engagement with the Australian Government, which she hoped would lead to an enhancement of Catholic education throughout Australia.

The second gathering of the National Director Forum coincided with the launch of the Parliamentary Friends of Education on the 16 October 2019 in Parliament House in Canberra. The launch function on 16 October was hosted by Member for Menzies (Vic) Kevin Andrews and Senator Deborah O'Neil (NSW) who was represented by the Member for Bean (ACT) David Smith. The event was attended by Minister for Education Dan Tehan, Shadow Minister for Education and Training Tanya Plibersek and other Members of Parliament. The Parliamentary Friends of Education support Catholic, independent and government school sectors.

The following day, Dan Tehan and Tanya Plibersek and government advisors met with Catholic representatives. The discussion provided an opportunity to exchange ideas with critical decision and policy makers in Australian education.

## Members' Committee of Schools Plus

In October 2019, NCEC Executive Director Jacinta Collins was invited to join the Members' Committee of Schools Plus along with notable education and business leaders Anthony Mackay AM, David Gonski AC, and Tim Fairfax AC.

School Plus was born from the recommendations identified in the *Review of Funding in Schooling*, led by David Gonski, calling for greater business and community support of schooling in Australia and the establishment of a national fund. It helps students overcome educational disadvantage through the fostering of philanthropic partnerships.

Since its commencement in 2015, Schools Plus has connected with over 25 per cent of the 4,600 disadvantaged schools in Australia, resulting in an additional \$14 million to over 600 projects benefiting 178,000 students.

In her former role as Parliamentary Secretary for School Education and Workplace Relations, Jacinta was responsible for leading the legislative changes required to establish the fund.

"I look forward to my role on the Members' Committee to review the strategic direction of Schools Plus and help make sure future initiatives align with their goal to support long-term change in disadvantaged schools and the wider education system," Jacinta said.

Schools Plus CEO Rosemary Conn welcomed the new members saying "their extensive experience in education, business and not-for-profit worlds brings a fantastic and unique set of skills that will help Schools Plus continue to show how philanthropic support can make the greatest difference to students' lives".



# Highlights

## 5th National School Improvement Colloquium

Over 200 Catholic educators from across Australia gathered in Dubbo from 9-11 September 2019 for the 5th National School Improvement Colloquium titled, “Catholic Education – A Brave New World”.

Catholic Education, Diocese of Bathurst hosted the event and Executive Director Jenny Allen welcomed delegates including NCEC Executive Director Jacinta Collins and Deputy Director Peter Hamill.

Bishop of Bathurst Michael McKenna celebrated the Eucharist offering a reflection on the place of Catholic Education in the life of the Church, and challenged delegates to continue to search for ways to develop authentic Catholic schools, especially those that serve rural communities.

The colloquium focused on school improvement particularly for regional, rural and remote schools, and the sharing of practices was a notable component with participants building on the dialogue from previous colloquiums. Geraldine Doogue AO, Phil Glendenning AM and Finnish educator Pasi Sahlberg gave thought-provoking presentations.



Above: Jacinta with Principal Vivienne Awad (behind) and Domremy College staff.

## International Office of Catholic Education World Congress

In June 2019, Jacinta joined over 550 delegates from 80 countries around the world at the Congress of the International Office of Catholic Education (OIEC) in New York.

With the theme, *Educatio Si'*, the Congress was strongly focused on Pope Francis' encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'* and on the contribution of Catholic schools to educate on solidarity, humanism and the safeguarding of the “common house”.

More than 50 speakers presented, in French, Spanish and English, a range of methods and projects from various countries that could be easily used by schools for innovation and engagement.

“The main focus was to get a deeper insight of Creation and develop a personal connection to every living creature in the world,” Jacinta said. “This was seen as the first step to developing a personal lifestyle for sustainability, and was an invitation to act responsibly for the safeguarding of the common house.”

## DIOCESAN VISITS

Visiting Diocesan and school communities, was a key priority for Executive Director Jacinta Collins as she settled into her new role throughout 2019.

## Sydney

In March, Jacinta visited Domremy College, Five Dock and Our Lady of the Assumption Primary School, North Strathfield in Sydney's inner west. The visits provided an opportunity for Jacinta to meet with principals and staff to learn about their work and priorities.

“Catholic schools have such a strong and proud story to tell and they are greatly valued by families,” Jacinta said. “It was wonderful to spend time with Vivienne and Cathy, the principals of these two schools. They are so ambitious for their students and school communities.”

Vivienne Awad started her career as a maths teacher and was Deputy Principal of Bethany



Top: Dr Edward Simons, Catholic Education Western Australia, Bishop of Bunbury Gerard Holohan, Sr Elizabeth Dodds RSC, Jacinta Collins, Greg Crafter, Kevin Rudd and Rae Crafter at the OIEC World Congress in New York.





College, Hurstville and Loreto Kirribilli before her appointment as Principal of Domremy College in 2012.

“Domremy College has a focus on learning growth – that is what we celebrate here and is what all our staff are dedicated to,” Vivienne said. “Being the best you can be is something that everyone can subscribe to.”

Cathy Young was appointed foundation Principal of Our Lady of the Assumption Primary in 2015. The school commenced with 71 students and, by 2019, had grown to an enrolment of 276 students, including its first Year 5/6 class. Cathy was the Principal of St Ambrose Primary, Concord West and the head of gifted education at Sydney Catholic Schools in previous roles.

“It is so important that we provide the rigour and stretch that gifted kids need,” Cathy said. “These kids will be the inventors, influencers and scholars of the future. We need to unearth these kids early, which is why I start that identification process at enrolment.”



Jacinta with students from Our Lady of the Assumption Primary.



Top: John Mula, Jacinta and Michael Polley AM with St Therese’s students. Above: Michael Polley AM, Jacinta and John Mula with St Aloysius hospitality students.

## Tasmania

In June 2019, Jacinta visited St Therese’s Catholic School, Moonah and St Aloysius Catholic College, Huntingfield Campus to learn about a number of successful programs in the Archdiocese of Hobart.

St Therese’s has a strong focus on early learning, offering both preschool for students in the year prior to school, and Catholic Education Tasmania’s early learning program, Setup for Success, for families with children from birth to five.

The program, launched in 2019, is run across a number of primary schools and works with families and their children to support parents’ understanding of child development and learning needs; provide resources to help families with early learning; and ensure a successful transition to school.

St Aloysius is leading the way in supporting students with disabilities. The college has

the highest number of students on the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) of Students with Disabilities in any Catholic school in Tasmania, and also has students with the highest need. St Aloysius takes a dynamic and personalised approach, ensuring they are responsive to the individual needs of each student through extensive support and alternative curricula.

“It’s always a wonderful opportunity to visit Catholic schools in different parts of Australia, from city schools, to those in regional and remote areas,” Jacinta said. “Each school community is unique and shows the great diversity of our schools, while sharing a common mission to educate our students through a Catholic worldview.”

During the trip, Jacinta met with the Catholic Education Commission Tasmania to discuss federal funding arrangements, the Review into Students with Disabilities Loading, religious freedom and the bicentenary of Catholic Education in Australia.





## Townsville & Rockhampton

In October 2019, Jacinta visited a number of school communities in the regional dioceses of Queensland including Cathedral College, Rockhampton, St Anthony's Catholic Primary, North Rockhampton, St Joseph's Catholic Primary, Wandal and Good Shepherd Catholic School, Rasmussen in Townsville.

For school communities in regional Australia, and the dioceses that support them, there are a great many challenges. The geographic distances, limited infrastructure, significant financial hardship, as well as the harsh reality of the drought and events like the 2019-2020 bushfires are just some of the difficulties regional Catholic schools face.

During her visit, Jacinta was impressed by how creatively and compassionately the school communities support their students and families facing hardship, and the ways they seek to ensure all students have the same quality of Catholic education regardless of whether they live in a big city or a small country town.



Top left: Townsville Diocesan Education Council Chair Len Horner, Jacinta, Bishop Tim Harris and Jacqui Francis. Top right: Jacinta and Jacqui Francis with students from Good Shepherd Catholic School, Rasmussen. Above: Jacinta and Leesa Jeffcoat with student leaders at the Cathedral College, Rockhampton.

"Our schools are as diverse as our students, and each school community finds its own ways to serve the needs of students and families," Jacinta said. "It was valuable to visit some of our regional and rural schools to learn more about their needs and experiences and I hope to do much more of it in the future."

"I would like to thank Bishops Michael McCarthy and Timothy Harris for welcoming me to their Dioceses, Directors Leesa Jeffcoat and Jacqui Francis, and the principals, staff and students from the Rockhampton and Townsville Dioceses for their hospitality and excitement in showcasing their schools."

## Bathurst

In September 2019, at the time of the 5th National School Improvement Colloquium, NCEC Deputy Director Peter Hamill had the opportunity to visit local Catholic schools in the Diocese of Bathurst including St Laurence's Catholic Primary School, Dubbo and St John's College, Dubbo (pictured).

St John's Principal Kerry Morris highlighted a specifically-designed program assisting Year 7 male students to meet the demands of secondary school. St Laurence's Principal Susan Byrnes explained how the schools' learning data is demonstrating a strong correlation between the improvement in learning outcomes and school-based professional learning undertaken by staff.





Each year Catholic schools save the  
Australian taxpayer an estimated

**\$2.3 billion**



## Schools Profile 2019

Summary statistics data for 2019 and 2018 financial data are from the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment's Annual School Census and Financial Questionnaire. Historical trend data is from the NCEC Australian Catholic Education Statistics database.

Statistics relate to all canonically recognised Catholic schools, including schools in Catholic systems and Catholic independent schools. Combined schools have students enrolled at both primary and secondary year levels.

Unless otherwise stated, all figures reported in this section refer to full-time equivalent students and staff.

*Note: Totals may vary to the sum of the parts due to rounding.*

### STUDENT ENROLMENTS

A total of 768,295 (head count) students attended Australian Catholic schools in 2019. Taking part-time participation in education into account, Catholic schools educated 768,067 full-time equivalent students, an annual increase of 3,877 students. Over 35 years, enrolments have increased steadily, up by 34% since 1985.

### STUDENT ENROLMENT GROWTH

Since 1985, 64% of the total growth in Catholic school enrolments is at secondary level, an increase of 122,984 students compared to a primary increase of 70,079. In 2019 secondary enrolments continued to increase (up by 4,680 students) while primary enrolments declined by 803 students.

## STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN AUSTRALIA 2019

School Type	Number	% of schools 2019	Change from 2018
Primary schools	1,248	71%	2
Secondary schools	343	20%	-8
Combined primary/secondary	148	8%	10
Special	12	1%	1
<b>All schools</b>	<b>1,751</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5</b>

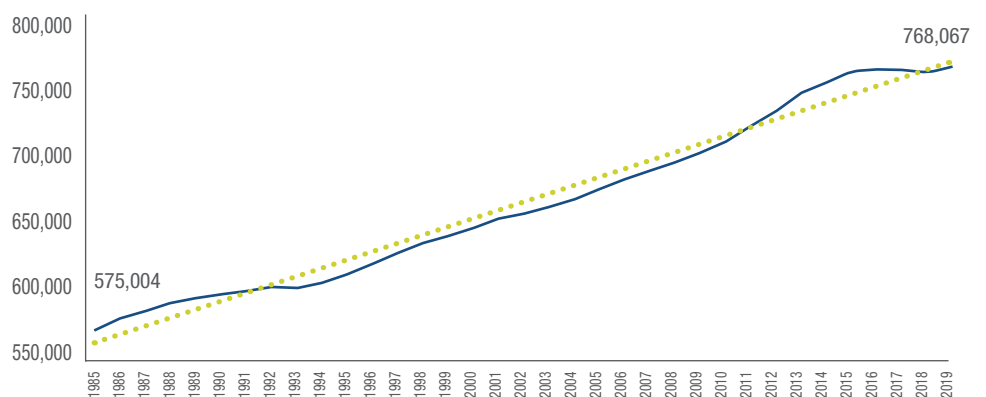
### STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS 2019 (FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT - FTE)

Type	Students	% of students 2019	Change from 2018
Primary	402,101	52%	-803
Secondary	365,966	48%	4,680
<b>All students</b>	<b>768,067</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,877</b>
All students (head count)	768,295	100%	3,881

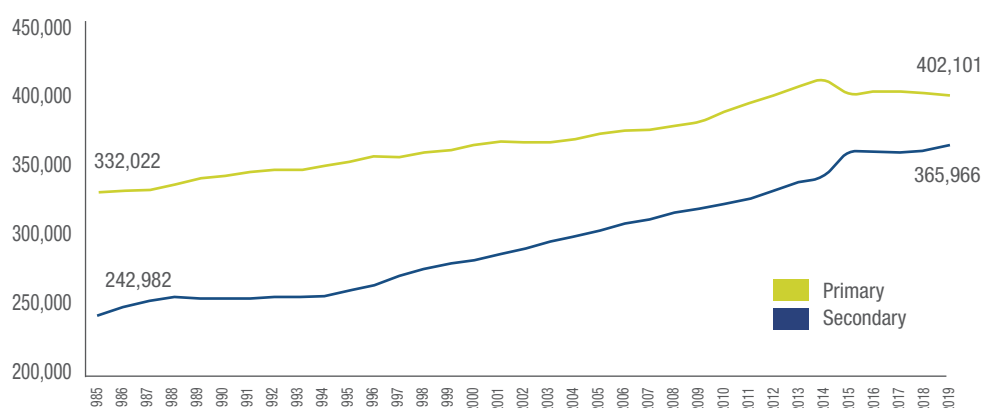
### SPECIFIC STUDENT GROUPS IN AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS 2019 (FTE)

Type	Students	% of students 2019	Change from 2018
Students with disability (NCCD adjustments)	137,270	18.0%	-476
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students	24,102	3.1%	1,057
Full-fee-paying overseas students	1,495	0.2%	-51
Boarding students (52 boarding schools)	5,439	0.7%	71

### STUDENTS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS 1985 TO 2019 (FTE)

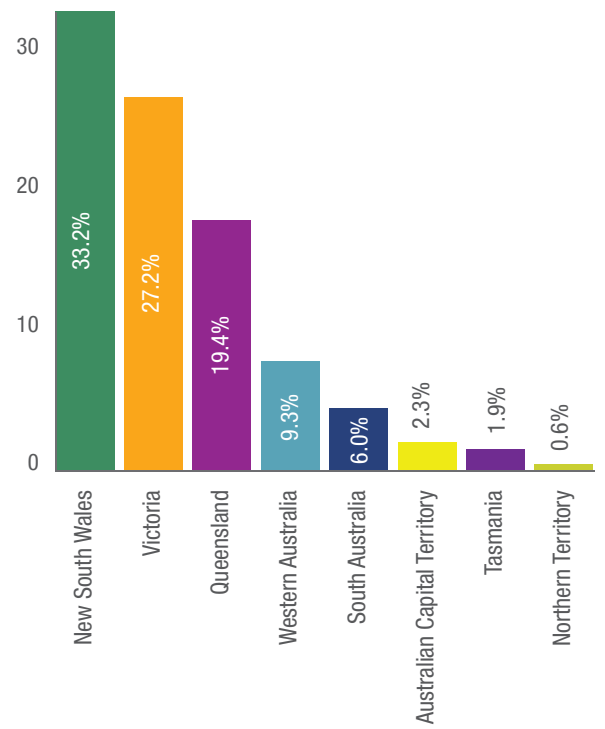
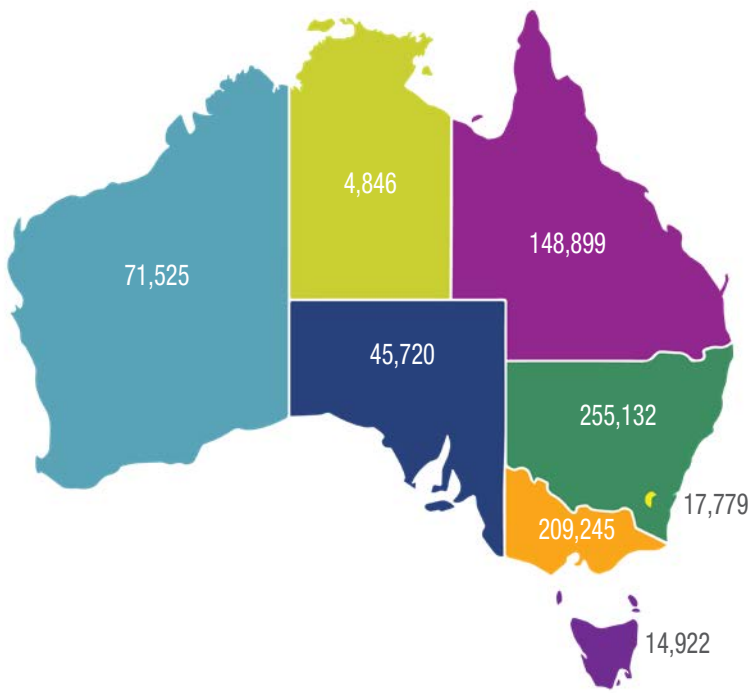


### CHANGE IN STUDENT ENROLMENTS 1985 TO 2019 (FTE)

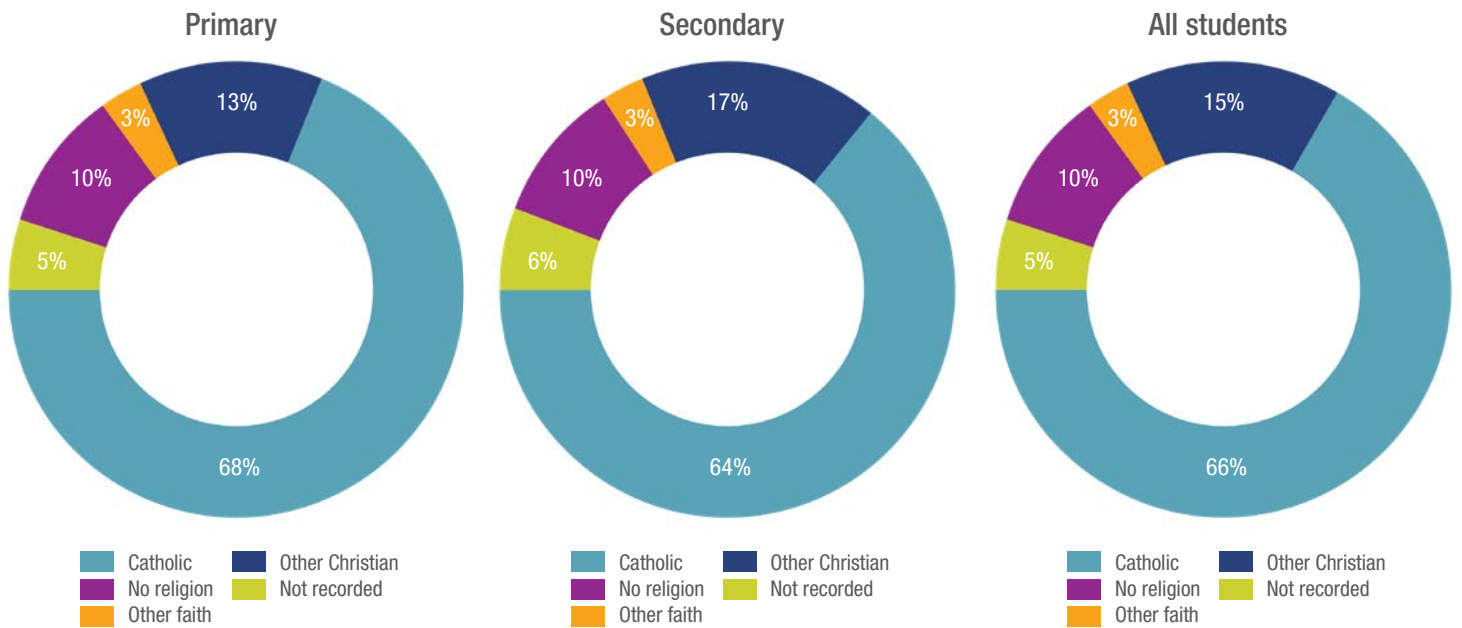




## STUDENT ENROLMENT BY STATE & TERRITORY (FTE)



## STUDENT RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

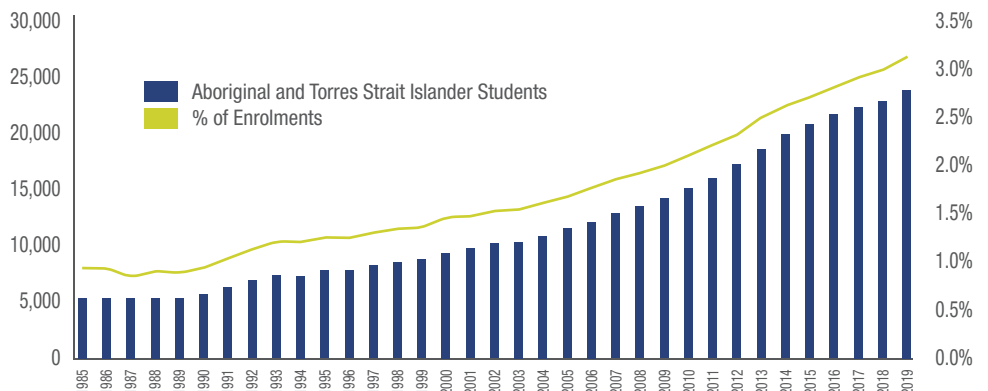


## STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students (full-time equivalent)

There were 24,102 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Catholic schools in 2019 representing 3.1% of all students. This was an increase of 1,057 students from the previous year.

## ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENTS 1985 TO 2019 (FTE)



## STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS

### Students with disabilities (NCCD headcount)

In 2018, the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) was used for the first time to assess the number of students with disability and the level of educational adjustment they received.

Overall, there were 137,270 students with disabilities in Catholic schools in 2019. Of these students 40,719 (or 30%) benefited from quality differentiated teaching practice (QDTP), 70,729 (or 52%) received supplementary adjustments, 21,918 (or 16%) required substantial adjustments and 3,905 (or 3%) needed extensive adjustments. So, while students with disability declined slightly overall in 2019, more students required substantial and extensive adjustments compared to 2018.

### Staff Profile 2019

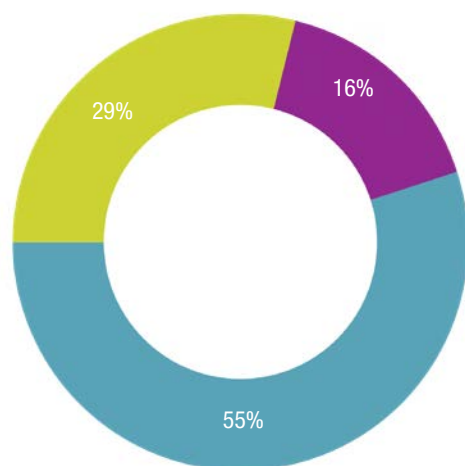
In 2019 Catholic schools employed a total of 98,402 staff, of which 54,290 were employed full-time and 44,112 were employed part-time. Counting both full-time hours and part-time hours, Catholic schools employed 79,050 full-time equivalent staff.

## Income and Expenditure

### SOURCES OF FUNDING 2018 CALENDAR YEAR

Proportions of total funding received from government and private sources are an average for all 1,751 canonically recognised Catholic schools, including 62 schools counted as "independent" in the source data (ACARA MySchool 2018 Financial Data, as at August 2019).

### Sources of funding 2018 calendar year



Commonwealth Government  
State Government  
Private Income

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (NCCD HEADCOUNT)

NCCD Adjustment Level	Students with disability 2019	% of all students with disability 2019	Change from 2018
QDTP	40,719	30%	3,308
Supplementary	70,729	52%	-6,308
Substantial	21,918	16%	2,100
Extensive	3,905	3%	425
<b>All students with disability</b>	<b>137,270</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-476</b>

## STAFF IN AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS 2019 (FTE)

	Staff 2019	% of staff 2019	Change from 2018
Teachers (including Principals)	55,190	70%	856
Non-teaching staff	23,860	30%	1,158
<b>All staff</b>	<b>79,050</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,015</b>
All staff (head count)	98,402	100%	2,304

## TEACHERS INCLUDING PRINCIPALS 2019 (FTE)

	Teaching staff 2019	% of teachers 2019	Change from 2018
Primary teachers	25,306	46%	243
Secondary teachers	29,707	54%	599
Special teachers	177	0%	14
<b>All teachers</b>	<b>55,190</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>856</b>
Female	39,428	71%	695
Male	15,761	29%	160

## STUDENT/TEACHER RATIOS 2019 (FTE)

	Primary	Secondary	Total
Students per teacher	15.9	12.3	13.9

## INCOME, CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BY TYPE (\$ PER STUDENT) 2018 CALENDAR

	Primary	Secondary	Combined	All schools
Fees and charges	1,963	5,431	8,120	4,261
Other private income	482	635	911	610
Total private income	2,445	6,066	9,031	4,871
State government grants	2,560	3,150	2,943	2,839
Commonwealth government grants	8,902	10,267	8,965	9,408
Total government income	11,462	13,417	11,908	12,247
<b>Total income</b>	<b>13,907</b>	<b>19,482</b>	<b>20,939</b>	<b>17,117</b>

Source: Department of Education (internal 2019 Financial Questionnaire datasets, unpublished) as at 15th October 2019 – average for all Catholic schools including "independent" Catholic schools.

## EXPENDITURE, CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BY TYPE (\$ PER STUDENT) 2018

	Primary	Secondary	Combined	All schools
Recurrent expenditure	12,336	16,826	17,940	14,911
Capital expenditure	1,602	2,687	3,495	2,315
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>13,938</b>	<b>19,513</b>	<b>21,435</b>	<b>17,226</b>
Loans at start of year	2,304	4,401	5,591	3,620
Loans at end of year	2,464	4,650	6,490	3,937
<b>Annual movement in borrowing</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>317</b>

Source: Department of Education (internal 2019 Financial Questionnaire datasets, unpublished) as at 15th October 2019 – average for all Catholic schools including "independent" Catholic schools.



# GOVERNANCE

## NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSIONERS



**Nicholas Moore**  
Chair (from February 2020)  
*Greg Crafter AO*  
(until February 2020)



**Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP**  
Archbishop of Sydney  
Chair, Bishops Commission  
for Education



**Dr Lee-Anne Perry AM**  
Executive Director, Queensland  
Catholic Education Commission  
Deputy Chair (2020)



**Prof Greg Craven**  
Vice Chancellor  
Australian Catholic University



**Sr Elizabeth Dodds RSC**  
Australian Catholic Bishops  
Conference Nominee



**Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI**  
Bishop of Wagga Wagga



**Ross Fox**  
Director, Catholic Education  
Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn



**Dr Neil McGoran**  
Director, Catholic Education  
South Australia



**Dallas McInerney**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Catholic Schools NSW



**Jim Miles**  
Executive Director, Catholic  
Education Commission Victoria



**John Mula**  
Executive Director, Catholic  
Education Tasmania (2019)



**Carmel Nash OAM**  
Executive Director, Federation of  
Parents and Friends Queensland



**Greg O'Mullane**  
Director of Catholic Education,  
Diocese of Darwin



**Dr Debra Sayce**  
Executive Director, Catholic  
Education Western Australia



**Sr Catherine Slattery SGS**  
Good Samaritan Education  
Catholic Religious Australia



**Jacinta Collins**  
Executive Director, National  
Catholic Education Commission

## WORKING PARTIES AND COMMITTEES

### Resource Strategy Standing Committee

- Dallas McInerney - Chair
- Jacinta Collins
- Ross Fox
- Dr Neil McGoran
- Jim Miles
- Dr Lee-Anne Perry AM
- Dr Debra Sayce

### Operations Standing Committee

- Jacinta Collins - Chair
- Ross Fox
- Dr Neil McGoran
- Dallas McInerney
- Jim Miles
- Greg O'Mullane
- Dr Lee-Anne Perry AM
- Dr Debra Sayce

### Faith Formation and Religious Education Standing Committee

- Sr Elizabeth Dodds, RSC - Chair
- Siobhan Allen (WA)
- Diana Alteri (WA)
- Laura Avery (NT)
- Anthony Cleary (NSW)
- Andrea Grant
- Professor Br David Hall FMS
- Sr Geraldine Larkins RSJ  
*(from March 2019)*
- Patrick McGrath (ACT)
- Martin Scroope (NSW)
- Leigh Stower (QLD)

- Martin Tobin (TAS)
- Michael Vial (SA)
- Peter Hamill (NCEC) – Executive Officer  
*(from August 2019)*
- John McGrath (NCEC) – Executive Officer  
*(until July 2019)*

### Finance, Audit and Risk Standing Committee

Dr Lee-Anne Perry AM - Chair  
Jacinta Collins  
Greg Crafter AO  
Carmel Nash OAM  
Jim Miles  
Wendy Stamp (NCEC) – Executive Officer

### Funding Analysis Expert Group

- Nicola Taylor (NCEC) – Chair
- Cyrus Li (QLD)
- Malcolm McDougall (QLD)
- Bruce Phillips (VIC)
- Geoff Miller (NSW)
- Mark Duchesne (WA)

### Data Strategy Working Group

- Danielle Cronin (NSW) - Chair
- Nicola Taylor (NCEC)
- Kwami Wetsi (NSW)
- Malcolm McDougall (QLD)
- Nigel McPhee (SA)
- Anna Rados (VIC)
- Mareez Fernando (ACT)
- Edward Simons (WA)
- Damien Brotherton (NT)

## About the NCEC

The National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC or the Commission) is the official body charged by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference with developing, advising, enunciating and acting upon policy at the national level for the Church's work in education. The NCEC is directly responsible to the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education.

The NCEC is the focal point for ongoing discussions and negotiations with the Australian Government and other national bodies involved in education. The Commission is also a national forum for discussions and debate on significant matters of interest and concern to Catholic education in Australia.

### Responsibilities include:

- Contributing to the national education policy debate
- Liaison with the Australian Government and other key national educational bodies
- Monitoring trends in educational theory and practice in Australia and overseas
- Consulting, complementing and working with Catholic education in each state and territory
- Identifying and disseminating data relevant to Catholic education
- Monitoring developments in faith formation and religious education
- Monitoring research in Catholic education.





# Financial Statements

## STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Revenue	3,122,601	3,033,390
Employee expenses	(1,752,209)	(1,472,356)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	(205,322)	(65,948)
Finance Costs	(43,659)	-
Rent expense	-	(155,955)
NCEC meetings and conferences expenses	(468,034)	(339,267)
Outsourcing expenses	(74,956)	(69,382)
Office and other expenses	(183,467)	(102,202)
Project expenses	(281,594)	(891,301)
Profit/(Loss) for the year	<u>113,360</u>	<u>(63,021)</u>
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<u><u>113,360</u></u>	<u><u>(63,021)</u></u>

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,263,689	1,534,797
Trade and other receivables	69,559	143,747
Other financial assets	1,882,316	1,288,121
Other current assets	142,026	23,826
	<u>3,357,591</u>	<u>2,990,491</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	19,646	21,176
Right-of-use assets	691,230	-
	<u>710,876</u>	<u>21,176</u>
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>4,068,467</u>	<u>3,036,517</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	361,514	299,154
Provisions	218,546	104,072
Lease Liabilities	148,308	-
	<u>728,368</u>	<u>403,226</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Provisions	55,621	37,764
Lease Liabilities	575,591	-
	<u>1,359,580</u>	<u>440,990</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>2,708,887</u>	<u>2,595,527</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Retained earnings	1,348,196	1,234,836
Reserves	1,360,691	1,360,691
	<u>2,708,887</u>	<u>2,595,527</u>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		



**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	Retained Earnings \$	Reserves \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2018	1,297,858	1,360,691	2,658,549
Comprehensive loss for the period	(63,021)	-	(63,021)
Transfer to general reserve 2018	-	-	-
<b>Balance at 31 December 2018</b>	<u>1,234,836</u>	<u>1,360,691</u>	<u>2,595,527</u>
Comprehensive profit for the period	113,360	-	113,360
<b>Balance at 31 December 2019</b>	<u>1,348,196</u>	<u>1,360,691</u>	<u>2,708,887</u>

**STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Receipts from levies and other income	3,071,075	2,980,285
Interest received	53,761	51,774
GST collected/(remitted) from/(to) the ATO	130,661	113,840
Interest on leases	(43,659)	-
Payments to employees and suppliers	(2,757,044)	(3,124,657)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<u>457,794</u>	<u>21,241</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(15,134)	(5,082)
<b>Cash used in Investing Activities</b>	<u>(15,134)</u>	<u>(5,082)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Proceeds from related party	2,937,554	3,145,352
Repayment to related party	(2,925,989)	(2,980,571)
Payment of lease liabilities	(131,136)	-
<b>Net increase (decrease) in current account</b>	<u>(119,571)</u>	<u>164,781</u>
<b>Net cash from investing and financing activities</b>	<u>(134,706)</u>	<u>159,699</u>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash held</b>	323,087	180,940
<b>Cash at beginning of the financial year</b>	2,822,918	2,641,978
<b>Cash at end of the financial year</b>	<u>3,146,005</u>	<u>2,822,918</u>



*Thank you to Brisbane Catholic Education and Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta for the use of additional photos in this report.*

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