SUMMARY REPORT

The 335th meeting of the Catholic Education Commission, New South Wales was held on 18 April 2012 in the Clancy/Gilroy Rooms of the Polding Centre. The meeting was chaired by Bishop Anthony Fisher OP.

A Summary Report of the Commission meeting is provided below:

1. **2012 Deputy Chair of Commission**

Following the resignation of Bishop David Walker from the Commission, Commissioner Peter Turner was elected Deputy Chair of the Chair for 2012.

2. **Empowering Local Schools CEC Implementation Plan**

At its 8 February 2012 meeting, the Commission agreed to support involvement in the Empowering Local Schools Program and endorsed version one of the Draft Implementation Plan.

The CEC Secretariat, working with the Empowering Local Schools Coordination Group, has refined the Implementation Plan to accommodate comments from Dioceses and DEEWR. The final draft Implementation Plan was noted by Commissioners at this meeting. It is with the Federal Education Minister’s Office for approval. CEC will finalise its ELS funding agreement with DEEWR, upon settlement of the Implementation Plan.

61 schools will participate in 2012 with estimated funding of $3.05 million. Proposals for the $509,000 implementation funds will be presented to the May 2012 Commission meeting.

3. **NSW Literacy and Numeracy Plan**

Commissioners discussed State Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan developments at the two most recent meetings and requested the development of funding options to support targeted schools to be submitted to this meeting.

Commissioners noted the NSW Catholic schools State Literacy and Numeracy Plan. The $7.02 million to NSW Catholic schools in 2012 is intended to generate 60 FTE positions. 108 schools across the dioceses are eligible for targeted support.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference authorised the first review of the NCEC. The Bishops appointed a Review Panel under the Chair of Dr. Peter Tannock. The Commission set aside the first half of this meeting to consult with the Review Panel. Those present were Dr Peter Tannock, David Hutton and Loretto Richardson. Sr Beth Calthorpe rsm gave her apologies. Dr Bill Griffiths as Secretary to the Panel was also present.

Commissioners noted the Terms of Reference of the Review:

- strategic roles and responsibilities;
- organisational structure;
- decision making and operational arrangements; and
- resource levels.

Dr Tannock gave an overview of the Review’s consultations to date and the Australian bishops Conference expectations as advised by Bishop Greg O’Kelly SJ.

Commissioners noted that all Commissioners’ terms of appointment conclude on 31 December 2012 so there is an opportunity at that time to effect any structural change agreed by the Australian Bishops.

5. Gonski Funding Review Recommendations

Commissioners noted that the NCEC has established a Catholic sector consultation group to evaluate the Gonski proposals and to provide input to the various DEEWR reference groups. Commissioners also noted Minister Garrett’s involvement in consultation processes across all schools sectors. Allens Consulting Group has explained the Schooling Resources Standard that underpins the Gonski recommendations. DEEWR has developed a spreadsheet for calculating funding for individual schools. However, the key to understanding the implications of the Review recommendations relies on decisions by governments about how much additional funding will be made available for Australian schools as a whole. This matter is still being discussed in camera by the Australian and State/Territory governments.

6. 2011 HSC CEC Analysis

For each HSC since 2000, the CEC has sponsored the analysis and reporting of HSC data for the purpose of improved teaching and learning and to better inform schools’ and systems’ planning. The analysis is conducted by Dr John DeCourcy of the Parramatta Catholic Education Office.

Commissioners considered the 2011 HSC Data Analysis and thanked Dr DeCourcy for his excellent analysis.

Commissioners approved its publication on CEC’s secure website. The Executive Director will offer a briefing for senior officers of the NSW Board of Studies by Dr DeCourcy on the issues arising from the analysis of the 2011 HSC. Commissioners also requested the Executive Director to survey Diocesan Catholic Schools Authorities and Congregational schools as to their analysis needs for future reports.
7. **Rewarding Great Teachers National Partnership**

In November 2011, Minister Garrett announced elements of the Rewards for Great Teachers initiative, following a pre-election commitment made in 2010. The elements are (a) an Australian Teacher Performance and Development Framework; (b) an appraisal process to be conducted for all teachers each year against the National Professional Standards for Teachers; and (c) one-off reward payments of $7500 for Highly Accomplished teachers and $10 000 for teachers who achieve the Lead teacher level.

It is expected that a resource agreement between CEC and DEEWR will be signed in mid-May 2012 to ensure that the first instalment of funds (approximately $1.6 million to the NSW Catholic sector initially being the School Support component only) are released before the end of June. DEEWR has advised that no implementation plan will be required.

Commissioners noted the content of a paper going to the Ministerial Council on 20 April 2012. A total Australia wide of $1.1 billion over the period from 2011/12 to 2018/19 is estimated for this National Partnership, of which $60 million will be available in 2011/12 and 2012/13. These funds cover:

- introduction of an Australian Teacher Performance and Development Framework from 2013;
- an appraisal process; and
- a nationally consistent approach to teacher accreditation at Highly Accomplished and Lead teacher levels.

$18.8 million will be allocated to three NSW school sectors and the NSWIT. It is estimated that the NSW Catholic schools sector will receive about $2.5 million over this two year period. In addition, over 2013 – 2015, the NSW will receive a notional allocation of $52.2 million to pay reward payments to teachers who achieve Highly Accomplished and Lead teacher certification.

8. **Endorsements**

The Commission endorsed:

- the CEC-NSW DEC service agreement for the provision of 2012 NAPLAN services to all NSW Catholic schools (systemic and Congregational);
- the “More Support for Students with Disabilities” CEC funding submission and Implementation Plan and authorise the Executive Director to undertake any necessary further negotiations with DEEWR;
- the Educational Neglect Service Response Continuum – Non-Government Schools (CEC draft) provided as an Attachment for finalisation and distribution for use by NSW Catholic School Authorities;
- 2012 DEC and CECNSW VET in Schools Program Funding Agreement; and
9. **CEC Education Policy Committee**

Professor Marea Nicholson, Associate Vice-Chancellor (Sydney), Australian Catholic University, has been appointed to fill a casual vacancy on the Education Policy Committee for the remaining term to 31 December 2012.

10. **Gallipoli Scholarships**

The Gallipoli Scholarship aims to perpetuate among Australians an understanding of the traditions of perseverance, courage and self-sacrifice established at Gallipoli and on other battlefields in World War I and World War II. The Scholarship provides financial assistance to successful applicants, resident in New South Wales or the ACT, to commence the first year of their first degree at a NSW or ACT University. Each scholarship is valued at $5000 tax free and is awarded to successful applicants in monthly packages of $1000.00 from April to September. Among this year’s winners are Alexandra Scott, St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton and Olivia Rowland, MacKillop College, Bathurst.

11. **RSL and Schools Remember Anzac Ceremony**

On 3 April the 2012, RSL and Schools Remember Anzac Ceremony was conducted at the War Memorial in Hyde Park, Sydney. This year, Catholic schools provided the Master of Ceremonies, a role performed by Edwina Still, Kincoppal-Rose Bay College of the Sacred Heart, and the Choir and Orchestra which was provided by the Diocese of Parramatta. The ceremony was attended by the Premier who also delivered an address. The ceremony was very well attended by schools from all sectors.

12. **NSW Government Tertiary Pathways Review Committee**

On 22 March 2012, the NSW Government’s Tertiary Pathways Review Committee met to look at more effective ways of ensuring that there are complimentary “crossovers” for students between university, TAFE and other training providers. The key concern is to promote arrangements which allow students a greater flexibility, combining and receiving credit for their study in different institutions. Among issues discussed was the extension of the current Universities Admission Centre (UAC) to include other tertiary providers. A report will be released in June. Catholic schools are represented on the Committee by Pat O’Reilly, Principal of Southern Cross Vocational College.

John Kitney  
**Commission Secretary**  
8 May 2012
Catholic Block Grant Authority NSW (CBGA) Briefing to the Commission

The Commission noted the briefing from the CBGA:

**BER P21 PROGRAM**

All P21 Projects must be completed by 30 June 2012, and must be fully acquitted by 31 December 2012. There are still 13 projects under construction. Two have been withdrawn.

The status of the P21 projects as at 31 March 2012 is as follows (figures presented to the 21 March 2012 Commission meeting are bracketed):

- 494 (468) at full acquitted status
- 216 (240) at completed status; and
- 13 (33) under construction.

68% of projects are fully acquitted or 98.6% by value. 98% of grants have been completed.

**TRADE TRAINING CENTRES**

In early April CEC sent to DEEWR the detailed plans and budgets of the nine Round 4 TTC schools at a cost of $11.15 million. DEEWR want schools to start construction by the end of 2011/12.

In March 2012, DEEWR anticipated announcing Round 5 TCC by end April 2012 and that CEC would most likely be allocated between $16m to $22m for Round 5 TTC projects. DEEWR stressed they will give strong preference to TTCs that serve low SES areas.

Commissioners also noted that in April 2012, one new TTC facility was opened at St Matthews Catholic School, Mudgee.

**DIGITAL EDUCATION REVOLUTION**

$47.5 million has been expended in 2011/12, with $0.2 million unexpended.

In May 2012, it is anticipated that DEEWR will announce the DER funding for the period to September 2013. This additional funding will sustain, rather than increase, the number of computers in schools.

John Kitney

Commission Secretary

8 May 2012