THREE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SIXTH MEETING
23 May 2012

SUMMARY REPORT

The 336th meeting of the Catholic Education Commission, New South Wales was held on 23 May 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 Chair of the CEC Education Policy Committee**

   Commissioner Jenny Allen was elected Chair of the Education Policy Committee for 2012.


   The Commission considered the 2011 CEC Special Purposes Financial Report. It had been reviewed by the CEC Audit and Risk Management Committee at its meeting on 17 April 2012. The Commission approved the Report and authorised the Chairman and Executive Director to sign the Declaration by Commissioners on behalf of the Commission. The Financial Report will be included in the 2011 CEC Annual Report.

3. **Rewards for Great Teachers**

   Commissioners noted that the Commonwealth’s Plan is to finalise agreements in early June 2012 to allow release of 2011-12 funds. The CEC will work with the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) to clarify the Australian Teacher Performance and Development Framework.

   Commissioners noted that the funds available will be solely for rewarding teachers who have achieved the levels of *Highly Accomplished* and *Lead Teacher*.

   It is expected that the CEC will receive $1.85M over 2012/13 to implement the *Australian Teacher Performance and Development Framework* including the provision of support for the implementation of the certification of teachers at *Highly Accomplished* and *Lead* levels of accreditation.
4. **Empowering Local Schools**

The NSW and Commonwealth Education Ministers launched the Empowering Local Schools Program in NSW on 16 May 2012.

$509,000 in implementation funds have been made available to the CEC.

Commissioners noted that the CEC Empowering Local Schools Diocesan Coordinating Group considered how to allocate implementation funds within the guidelines of the National Partnership. It was also noted that certain synergies may be possible between the performance management aspects of ELS and the Rewarding Great Teachers initiative.

The Commission approved the allocation of $509,000 in implementation funds as follows:

- three projects totalling $346,500, namely:
  - $140,000 for Establishing and Developing Advisory School Boards;
  - $150,000 for Building Financial Management Capacity in Schools; and
  - $56,500 for Building Leadership Capacity, Performance Management and Accountability (noting that this project is to be enhanced; and

- up to $162,500 to be distributed proportionally across Diocesan Catholic Schools Authorities.

5. **Investing in Focus Schools for Aboriginal Students**

Commissioners welcomed this National Partnership initiative from the Australian Government. Commissioners are committed to striving towards meeting the COAG objective of halving the gap between Indigenous and Non Indigenous students in respect of literacy and numeracy by 2018. All assistance is welcome for the purpose of meeting goal.

Overall 200 Australian schools have been identified by the Commonwealth, of which 7 are NSW Catholic schools. $1.4 million is available to the CEC.

The Commission approved CEC’s participation in this supplementary National Partnership. In addition the Commission agreed that DEEWR should be asked to widen the funding eligibility criteria so that all 23 NSW Catholic sector focus schools may be included in program initiatives.

6. **NSW Institute of Teachers Act: Proposed amendments**

The NSW Institute of Teachers is in the process of analysing proposed 2012 legislative changes to the NSW Institute of Teachers Act, 2004 for consideration by the NSW Education Minister.

Commissioners noted that the Catholic sector is being consulted through CCER, the Diocesan Teacher Accreditation Authorities Forum Group, CEC Education Policy Committee and the Diocesan Directors’ Child Practitioners Group. Once the amending Bill is released, the CEC Education Policy Committee will review the Bill and provide final advice to the Commission.

Commissioners discussed the powers of the NSW Institute of Teachers to accredit, suspend and reinstate teachers. Commissioners also noted that annual teacher accreditation fee requirements will be strengthened.
7. **Endorsements**

The Commission endorsed:

- The CEC submission to the Review of the NCEC;
- the updated *Catholic Schools at Crossroads* report (May 2012) to be provided to the 8 June 2012 meeting of the Bishops of NSW/ACT.
- the list of 98 schools which will receive the benefit of specialist support in 2012 under the NSW Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan; and
- the papers related to the Empowering Local Schools Agreement between the Commission and DEEWR.

8. **ACARA Opinion Surveys**

At the 5 April 2012 meeting of the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC), the proposed 2012 ACARA Survey of Parent attitudes, with associated reporting on *MySchool*, were discussed. It was decided that the surveys will not proceed to implementation at this time. Instead, ACARA will develop a common national template which schools will be free to use.

9. **ACARA Senior Curriculum**

On 10 May 2012, the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) released the draft senior secondary Australian Curriculum in 14 subjects for English, Mathematics, Science and History for public consultation until 20 July 2012. State and territory curriculum, assessment and certification authorities are responsible for the structure and organisation of their senior secondary courses. Each State Curriculum Authority will determine how it will integrate the Australian Curriculum content and achievement standards into courses. State and Territory curriculum and certification authorities will provide any other elements, including assessment information, necessary to complete the subject packages in accord with local State or Territory requirements.

10. **BOS ART EXPRESS – hosted this year at the ACU**

On 27 April 2012, Dr Brian Croke, as both Deputy President of the NSW Board of Studies and Executive Director CEC NSW, opened and exhibition of ARTEXPRESS – an outstanding collection of work by 2011 HSC visual arts students. This is the first time that Australian Catholic University has hosted ARTEXPRESS. The ACU exhibition is unique because all artwork chosen focus is on issues of social justice in today’s society.

11. **CEC and the Diocesan Emergency Management System**

The Diocesan Emergency Management System (DEMS) has been developed by CEC to support dioceses in sending State Government emergency notifications to schools. The software is in the form of an application accessed through a web browser. During early May 2012, Dr Tony McArthur visited eight dioceses to distribute the application as a virtual disk image. In the coming weeks all dioceses will have received the application.

John Kitney  
**Commission Secretary**  
13 June 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.

The status of the P21 projects as at 30 April 2012 is as follows (figures presented to the 18 April 2012 Commission meeting for March are bracketed):

- 536 (494) at full acquitted status
- 179 (216) at completed status;
- 6 (11) under construction.

74% of projects are fully acquitted or 99% by value.

TRADE TRAINING CENTRES

The Federal Budget of 8 May 2012 delayed funding for Round 5 TTCs for at least fourteen months. Prior to the Budget CBGA had been informally advised by DEEWR that Round 5 Applications would be announced by May 2012.

Funding for Round 4 contracts is available until 30 June 2012 – no moneys will be available from DEEWR after 30 June 2012. CBGA will work with the nine Round 4 applicants to make sure they meet the deadline and receive funding from DEEWR.

In May 2012, a new TTC Hospitality facility was opened at Rosebank College in Sydney.

DIGITAL EDUCATION REVOLUTION

DEEWR are reviewing the effectiveness of the Digital Education Revolution (DER) program, and CBGA will contact Dioceses and Congregational schools about any information required.

GENERAL CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAM

Twenty-seven applications were received for the 2012 Round of General Capital Projects which closed on 27 April 2012. There were seven applications for new buildings and twenty for modifications of existing buildings. CBGA officers will review applications, and where necessary make changes so all proposals are clear and credible. The State Priority Committee will meet on 5 – 7 June 2012, and the Committee members will inspect the proposed building sites between 13 June and 6 July 2012. The Committee will meet on 25 – 27 July 2012 to rank all projects by priority, as required by the CBGA guidelines.

John Kitney
Commission Secretary
13 June 2012