SUMMARY REPORT

The 342nd meeting of the Catholic Education Commission, New South Wales was held on 21 November 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. **CEC 2012 Brother John Taylor Award to Dr John DeCourcy**

   This prestigious award is conferred annually in honour of Br John Taylor cfc who was the Executive Director of the NSW Catholic Education Commission from 1984 until his death in 1993. He was recognised as a pioneer in Catholic education and had a strong influence on science teaching in Catholic schools and on curriculum in general. The Br John Taylor Award is presented to an individual who makes a significant contribution to Catholic education in NSW through the way his or her work has benefited the Catholic education community, facilitated the work of others in their professional roles, and strengthened the ethos of Catholic education.

   This year’s Award has been given to Dr John DeCourcy of the Parramatta Catholic Education Office in recognition of his ground breaking work in Higher School Certificate (HSC) Data Analysis where he has had a profound influence on both the Catholic and government sectors. His work has made a fundamental change to the understanding of student performance, student achievement and teacher practice in the HSC. His work has achieved national and international recognition for its quality and contribution to learning and teaching in Catholic secondary schools.

   John is held in high esteem by his colleagues and is recognised for his significant contribution to Catholic schooling over many decades. Commissioners considered that he is a very worthy recipient of this prestigious Catholic Education Award.

   The Award will be conferred in 2013.

2. **New Australian Government Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership**

   At their 18 July 2012 meeting, Commissioners noted CEC’s engagement with NSW DEC concerning its negotiations with the Commonwealth regarding the Australian Government’s new National Partnership Agreement for Improving Literacy and Numeracy.

   The estimated funding allocation to the CEC is $7,591,698 for the 2012/13 financial year and $3,804,044 for the 2013/14 financial year. All program activity will take place during 2013 only.

   Funding is focused on Primary schools with Year 7 participating through a cluster arrangement. Diocesan representatives are developing provisional lists of participating schools to be put to DEEWR by 14 December 2012.
All Dioceses have Primary Schools that have a significant proportion of students in the bottom two NAPLAN bands but which did not participate in the original Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership together with students from disadvantaged groups. These are the schools being targeted.

Commissioners agreed with allocating funds across the Dioceses and Congregational schools based upon number of Primary Schools. The Education Policy Committee will be reviewing draft lists of Diocesan participating schools in order to establish a single CEC list. The Commission authorised the CEC Executive Director and the Chair of the Education Policy Committee to finalise the National Partnership Agreement including a CEC list of participating schools by 14 December 2012.

3. **NSW Institute of Teachers: CEC Nomination to Quality Teacher Council**

The Commission agreed to nominate Elizabeth O’Carrigan Eastern Regional Director Sydney Catholic Education Office as the Catholic representative on the Quality Teaching Council for a term of two years and six months from 1 January 2013.

4. **CEC Education Policy Committee**

The Commission appointed Commissioner Jenny Allen as Chair of the Education Policy Committee. The Commission also appointed Catherine Alcock Principal of Monte Sant’Angelo North Sydney, and Dr Michael Bezzina Director Teaching and Learning of Sydney Catholic Education Office to fill vacancies caused by the retirements of Seamus O’Grady and Sister Judith Lawson OP. Professor Marea Nicholson Associate Vice Chancellor of Australian Catholic University was reappointed. All terms are for three years from 1 January 2013.

5. **CEC Working Parties**

Commissioners considered progress reports from the following working parties:
- School Counsellor Issues; and
- Early childhood.

Reports will be provided to the Commission in early to mid-2013.

6. **Australian Government’s National Schools Improvement Framework**

Commissioners discussed the draft National School Improvement Framework (NSIF).

The CEC Education Policy Committee discussed the National School Improvement Framework with Dr Mark Turkington of Sydney Catholic Education Office who is the NCEC’s representative on the Australian Education Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs Senior Officials Committee Steering Committee.

Commissioners noted that the NSIF will be discussed by Education Ministers on 7 December 2012 and will be presented for adoption to Council of Australian Governments in February 2013 for adoption. The Commission requested the Education Policy Committee to continue monitoring developments in the context of the new Commonwealth Australian Education Act and report to the 14 February 2013 Commission meeting.
7. **Great Teaching Inspired Learning**

On 31 July 2012, the NSW Education Minister issued for consultation Discussion Paper “Great Teaching, Inspired Learning”. This Discussion Paper canvasses questions focused on:

- Initial Teacher Education;
- Entry to the Profession;
- Developing and Maintaining Professional Practice; and
- Recognising and Sharing Outstanding Practice.


Commissioners considered the draft response at their 21 November 2012 meeting. After providing feedback on the draft submission, the Commission authorised the CEC Executive Director to finalise the CEC submission by mid December 2012 and shortly thereafter it will be available on the CEC public website. A Ministerial Policy Paper on future directions for the NSW Teaching Profession is expected to be released in March 2013.

8. **Commission Decisions**

The Commission:

- approved the distribution of $91.85 million in respect of 18 targeted education programs for 2013;
- endorsed and adopted the Deed of Variation in respect of DEEWR funding for NSW Catholic schools for 2013;
- approved the 2011 CEC Annual Report;
- approved the distribution of $3,299,140 in Rewards for Great Teachers based upon proportion of Teacher FTE (2012 School Census); and
- noted the CAL copyright FTE remuneration rate is to be frozen at $16.934 for 2013 to 2015 inclusive.

9. **NSW Government Response to Staysafe Inquiry**

At their 19 October 2011 meeting, Commissioners endorsed the CEC submission to the NSW School Zone Safety Inquiry by the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety (*Staysafe*). Subsequently, CEC representatives appeared at a Parliamentary hearing to assist *Staysafe* with the generation of its report. *Transport for NSW* provides $400,000 per annum for the NSW Road Safety Education Program in NSW Catholic schools. The NSW Government’s response to the *Staysafe* report’s recommendations is encouraging. The key positions adopted by the NSW Government to the most significant recommendations for the Catholic sector include:

- Review the provision of Road Safety Education (RSE) Consultants, including an evaluation of resource availability in consultation with all three education sectors, with a view to expanding the availability of these consultants;
- Conduct further independent evaluation/research of the RSE Program with an acknowledgement of the highly effective nature of RSE in schools;
- Provide a framework for schools to assist them identify appropriate external RSE practitioners, while recognising that teachers are best placed to deliver RSE; and
- Advocate for mandatory RSE in the Australian Curriculum.

At this meeting, Commissioners noted that the Program is likely to continue in its present form and a number of reforms supported by CEC are set to be implemented.
10. **Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission**

On 30 October 2012, a preliminary meeting took place between the ACNC Taskforce, DEEWR, ISCA and NCEC to discuss the draft Terms of Reference for the ACNC Non-government School Sector Reporting Duplication Working Party. As the ACNC legislation has now been passed by Parliament with the ACNC will operating from early December, the Working Party will be formalised and meet for the first time in the New Year. Three to four meetings of the Working Party will take place during 2013.

The ACNC transitional legislation allows entities reporting under the Schools Assistance Act 2008 to continue with their current reporting arrangements through DEEWR for a transitional period of three years (up to and including 2015). Within this context, the Working Party will seek to identify and recommend practical strategies to resolve any unnecessary duplication of reporting requirements that may already exist or which may arise through the establishment of the ACNC.

The Working Party will be chaired by the ACNC Commissioner, Mrs Susan Pascoe. Membership of the Working Party will comprise ACNC, DEEWR, NCEC and ISCA and will be regularly reviewed to consider expanded membership. NCEC will be represented on the ACNC Taskforce by Ian Baker (NSW) and David Wilkes (Vic).

11. **Review of Agricultural Education and Training in NSW**

The NSW Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli and the NSW Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson, announced the terms of reference for an independent review of agricultural education and training in NSW on 18 July 2012:


The Review will consider the appropriateness of agricultural education and training programs in the NSW school and tertiary sectors, the promotion of career opportunities and workforce needs in the agricultural sector, and how NSW government-owned agricultural education, training and research institutions and other facilities can be best positioned to meet future industry needs.

The Review is being led by Professor Jim Pratley, from Charles Sturt University. In undertaking the review Professor Pratley is inviting submissions by 25 November in response to an Issues Paper


Submissions will close on Friday, 23 November 2012. Gerard Delany, CEC State Coordinator of VET will attend a consultation meeting with Professor Pratley on 9 November 2012. A final report and recommendations will be provided to the Ministers by 30 June 2013.
12. **Not for Profit Tax Concessions Ministerial Working Party**

Through NCEC CEC is participating in the development of Catholic sector feedback to the “Fairer, Simpler and More Effective Tax Concessions for the Not-for-Profit Sector” Discussion Paper process as initiated by the Commonwealth Treasury. Father Brian Lucas General Secretary of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is a member of the Ministerial Review Working Group.

Key issues include:

- Goods and Services Tax concessions for Charities
- Income Tax concessions for Charities
- Fringe Benefits Tax concessions for Charities
- Deductible Gift Recipient Status for Charities

The CEC Secretariat is reviewing issues arising. The Discussion Paper is available at:


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

The Commission noted the briefing from the CBGA:

**GENERAL CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAM**

The Ministers of Education have not yet approved the 2012 projects to be funded under the Commonwealth’s Capital Grants Program (CGP), and the NSW Building Grants Assistance Scheme (BGAS). The CBGA will notify all applicants once approval is granted and then start the process to fund the successful projects.

**CBGA Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

The CBGA AGM was held on 8 November 2012 and agreed:

- on the timetable for the 2013 CGP and BGAS programs, including the dates when Development Applications and Development Consent are required;
- on technical modifications to clarify the CBGA capital funding guidelines; and
- to recommend to the CBGA that its funding process for the 2014-17 Quadrennium be fundamentally reviewed in 2013.

The applicants formally assessed the management of the AGM by the CBGA, and the effectiveness of the dialogue at the AGM.

**BER P21 PROGRAM**

During October, there has been steady progress in fully acquitting and completing BER P21 projects with the construction of all 721 projects now completed.

Two important tasks that are incomplete are:

- matters relating to Administration payments, and
- the fair and efficient allocation by the CBGA of the remaining funds – and this involves additional administration as project receiving these funds must be re-opened.

All BER funding matters, including matters relating to administration payment and allocation of remaining funds, must be fully acquitted by 31 December 2012.

**TRADE TRAINING CENTRES**

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) has announced that TTC Round 5 will be funded in the 2013/14 financial year – no other details are available.

**DIGITAL EDUCATION REVOLUTION**

CBGA will assist any NSW Catholic school that is selected by DEEWR to be audited regarding DER. The Australian National Audit Office had recommended such an audit. DEEWR has hired Resolution Consulting Services Pty Ltd to conduct the sample audit survey.

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John Kitney  
**Commission Secretary**  
5 December 2012