SUMMARY REPORT

The 343rd meeting of the Catholic Education Commission, New South Wales was held on 14 February 2013 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. Deputy Chair of Commission for 2013

Commissioner Peter Turner, Director of Schools for the Wollongong Catholic Schools Office was elected Deputy Chair for 2013.

2. Commonwealth Funding of Schools

Commissioners noted that it is expected that Commonwealth and the States will sign off on new funding arrangements at the April 2013 Council of Australian Governments meeting. The Australian Education Bill will become an Act in June or July 2013 and will become the vehicle for delivering funding.

Commissioners noted that DEEWR is modelling numbers on school entitlements based upon discussions with the States.

The Australian Government has promised that no Australian school will receive a dollar less than at present. A decision has not yet been made about whether school systems will have authority to redistribute grants among schools as at present.

Commissioners confirmed that the NCEC is the national voice for funding submissions to governments based upon input from State CECs. State based organisations can also submit their views but they must be consistent and complementary with national Catholic voice.

3. NSW State Funding of Schools

Commissioners noted that the NSW Government confirmed its freeze on State Per Capita grants for non-government schools at the 1 July 2013 rate for four years which will generate $116 million in savings to NSW Treasury and represents a cut of approximately $273 per Catholic Primary student and $375 per Catholic Secondary student over the period July 2013 to July 2017. Indexation is to re-commence once the Catholic sector has made savings equal to the value of the government freeze.

The Non-Government Schools Building Grants Assistance Scheme will be set at $11 million until 1 July 2017 but will be escalated over this time by new enrolments and movements in the index of building costs.
The NSW Government’s financial support for teacher development totalling $25 million will be consistently allocated across all school sectors. This means that $8.6 million will be made available to the non-government sector (CEC/AIS) in 2013. CEC has allocated $4.9 million from this Pool for distribution across all NSW Catholic schools on FTE teachers employed.

4. Early Childhood Education

At its 20 June 2012 meeting, the Commission confirmed the establishment of an Early Childhood Education Working Party.

The Working Party met three times in the latter part of 2012. Its advice is due in May 2013.

At its meeting on 6 February 2013, the Education Policy Committee considered the future directions advice for the Working Party and agreed that the following matters be submitted to the Commission for discussion:

- Policy Focus, and
- Possible Framework for Reporting.

At this meeting, Commissioners reviewed Working Party progress.

5. NSW State Numeracy and Literacy Plan

The NSW Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan delivers on a Coalition pre-2011 election commitment of $260 million over five years for the purpose of providing additional specialist literacy and numeracy teachers.

On 21 December 2012, the CEC received the finalised funding agreement for the State Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan 2012 – 2016. Subsequently, the CEC Secretariat replied to the Minister agreeing to the terms of the agreement.

In 2012, the three school sectors applied a common methodology which resulted in the identification of 98 Catholic systemic primary schools across ten dioceses to be targeted under this initiative.

The funding allocation and annual targets for additional FTE teachers employed under the Plan will increase, as indicated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding ($m)</td>
<td>7.02</td>
<td>7.701</td>
<td>11.27</td>
<td>5.771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTE teachers</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Funding and target for Semester 1, 2016

At this meeting, Commissioners reviewed the 2012 – 2016 State Funding Agreement. Discussion focused on:

- Funding flows across 2013 to 2016;
- Targeted schools for 2013, noting that the 98 2012 schools will continue to be the targeted schools for 2013.
- In the second half of 2013 a new list of target schools will be identified for Commission endorsement consistent with clause 9 of the Agreement. Clause 9 is the new school targeting methodology. It was noted that the new methodology moves away from the former simplistic deficit approach to targeting schools; and
- Possible synergies with the new Commonwealth National Partnership for Literacy and Numeracy for 2013 were reviewed, noting that the funding streams for each of the State and Commonwealth initiatives are separate. Separate lists of targeted schools will also apply.

It is proposed that a review of Catholic schools targeted under the State Action Plan not take place before mid-2013 to allow review of 2012-2013 initiatives, along with consideration of the implementation of the 2013 Improving Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership.
6. **Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission**

In December 2012, the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC) Acts were passed, and the ACNC has begun operations by requiring existing charities to confirm their existing ATO registration with the ACNC by 2 June 2013. Full ACNC compliance is required by 2017. The ACNC financial reporting will be more extensive and complex than DEEWR reporting. The Governance paper recommends six standards apply. Each Diocese will need to evaluate the strategic trade-off in centralising versus decentralising governance and reporting. The first operational issue confronting schools is confirming their registration with the ACNC. The Resources Policy Committee has requested that ACNC agree on a method to reduce the duplication of effort involved.

Dioceses and schools are required by the ACNC to provide ACNC with an information statement for 2013 by 30 June 2014.

CEC and its relevant Core Committee will discuss and coordinate the ACNC changes with existing regulatory requirements including:

- NSW Education Act section 21A “Financial Assistance Not to Be Paid to Non-Government Schools Operating for Profit” requirements.
- SCSEEC reference from Minister Garrett for the “Harmonisation of Regulatory Frameworks for Non-Government Schools, including Not-for Profit Statues”
- New DEEWR Schools Assistance Act 2008 Administrative Guidelines 2009 to 2013/14 relating to both “Schools Not Conducted for Profit” and “Information about Requirements for Funding”.

7. **CEC Resources Policy Committee**

The Commission considered the nominations received for positions on the Resources Policy Committee and approved appointments for three years as follows:

- Peter Turner (Chair); Director of Schools, Wollongong CEO
- Paul Murray; Head of Financial Services, Maitland – Newcastle CSO
- Bernard Ryall; Director of Financial and Administrative Services, Parramatta CEO
- Greg Smith; Director of Business Services, OLMC Parramatta

8. **Commission Decisions**

The Commission endorsed:

- the list of NSW Catholic schools targeted for participation in the 2013 Australian Government Improving Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership;
- the initial feedback letter as provided to Transport for New South Wales on NSW School Bus Safety Report; and
- the CECNSW and CAL Remuneration Agreement for 2012 – 2015 inclusive.

9. **NSW Community Languages Board**

The commission re-nominated Mary Karras, Sydney CEO as the CEC nominee on the *NSW Community Languages Schools Board*. 
10. NSW Students with Anaphylaxis Review

The important and high-profile issue of anaphylaxis management in Catholic schools is currently under review. Pending a decision by the review panel, please refer to the NSW Department of Education and Communities’ Anaphylaxis Procedures for Schools 2012. Catholic schools are advised to look at both the CEC 2006 and the DEC 2012 advice in order to make local decisions based on a risk assessment. The Anaphylaxis Procedures for Schools 2012 together with the 2006 CEC guidelines can be found on the CEC public website.


11. Privacy Compliance

Privacy legislation has an increasing impact on the operation of schools. In November 2012, the Commonwealth Parliament passed amendments to the Privacy Act 1988 (Cwlth), the Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Bill 2012 (the Amending Bill). The amendments, which are significant, will not come into force until 2014. The Secretariat is working with NCEC, CCER and AIS to develop new Privacy Compliance advice including a revised Manual, replacing the current document on the CEC website. During 2013, a number of advisory papers regarding Privacy Compliance will be presented to the Commission.

12. Middle Years Expert Panel

Ian Baker, Director – Education Policy and Programs has been invited and accepted the invitation by the Commissioner for Children and Young People to join the Middle Years Expert Advisory Panel. The Panel has arisen from the recommendations of the NSW Parliament’s Children and Young People Committee’s inquiry into Young People 9-14 Years in NSW: http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Prod/parlment/committee.nsf/0/822E80C0E6BD9469CA2576810018732C. The CEC provided a written submission and oral evidence to the inquiry in 2009. The first meeting will be held on 8 March 2013.

John Kitney
Commission Secretary
14 March 2013
Catholic Block Grant Authority NSW (CBGA) Briefing to the Commission

The Commission noted the briefing from the CBGA:

GENERAL CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAM

❖ Commonwealth General Capital Funding for 2012

Ministerial approved projects for 2012 totalled $22.8 million:

- Holy Trinity School, Inverell;
- Hennessey Catholic College, Young;
- Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes;
- St Justin’s Catholic Primary School, Oran Park (Stage 3);
- St Peter’s Primary School, Port Macquarie;
- St Ambrose’s Catholic Primary School, Pottsville;
- Parramatta Marist College, Westmead;
- Mother Teresa Primary School, Westmead;
- Patrician Brothers’ College, Fairfield; and
- St Ursula’s College, Kingsgrove.

Commissioners noted that in January 2013, the CBGA sent each of these schools an initial offer of funding, and all projects are proceeding satisfactorily.

❖ NSW State Government Capital Grants Program

The NSW Minister for Education has not yet approved the CBGA’s recommendations to fund three projects.

❖ 2013 Commonwealth General Capital Program

In early December 2012, the CBGA opened 2013 application round and posted the guidelines and milestones on the CEC website:

- Closing Date for Applications: 8 April 2013;
- State Priority Committee Meeting: 22 May to 24 May 2013;
- School Visits: 3 June to 28 June 2013;
- State Priority Committee Meeting: 17 July to 19 July 2013; and
- Annual General Meeting: 7 November 2013.

TRADE TRAINING CENTRES

Round Five TTC funding of $13.77 million was heavily oversubscribed with 17 expressions of interest, costing about $39 million. CBGA used the policy and procedures approved by the Commission to select 9 projects to receive the TTC funding, and DEEWR has agreed to examine these 9 TTC projects.

CBGA is now working with each of the 9 projects to prepare detailed, final applications to DEEWR by end of March 2013. CBGA will also update the Sectorial TTC Strategy on behalf of the NSW Catholic Sector, and send the Strategy to DEEWR for their review.
DEEWR has breached the DER funding agreement and has not funded CBGA (nor any of the other BGA) for $17.6 million to “sustain the 1:1 ratio of computers to students reached at 31 December 2011. National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) wrote to DEEWR about this issue in October 2012, and has continued raise this issue on the behalf of all CBGAs. CBGA NSW has also spoken to DEEWR on several occasions.

John Kitney
Commission Secretary
14 March 2013