The 347th meeting of the Catholic Education Commission, New South Wales was held on 19 June 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. Commonwealth Education Bill and Federal School Funding

Therese Temby and Bill Griffiths of the National Catholic Education Commission attended the meeting to brief Commissioners on progress with the “Gonski” reforms. Commissioners noted that the Education Act Bill was scheduled to pass through both Houses by the end of June 2013. The Education Act will then facilitate all school funding to non-government schools. There still remains uncertainty about how much additional funds will flow through to NSW Catholic schools and under what conditions.

Commissioners were advised that a full National Funding Model briefing will be held for all Dioceses on 2 July 2013. An equivalent briefing will be provided to CLRI on 8 July 2013.

2. Commission Decisions

The Commission:

- approved the Commission Strategy Planning Day Agenda for August 2013;
- authorised advertising for the 2013 Brother John Taylor Fellowship;
- endorsed the CEC’s registration with the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission;
- confirmed Mrs Jane Cronan as an education member of CESWCC for the period 1 July 2013 to 31 December 2014.
- endorsed the Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Schools Program Funding Agreement 2013. The Agreement provides $1,709,110 in funding for 2013;
- authorised the Acting Executive Director to finalise a 2014 – 2016 Transport NSW Road Safety Education Funding Agreement for $580,00 per annum;
- endorsed the CEC Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Schools Program 2012 accountability report; and
- endorsed and adopted the renewed CAL licence and remuneration fee for 2013 to 2015 inclusive at a FTE rate of $16,934.
3. NSW Schools Advisory Council (SAC)

The NSW School Advisory Council met 11 June 2013.

SAC was advised of the resignation of the CEO of the NSW Institute of Teachers Kate O’Donnell for personal reasons. Ms Carol Taylor CEO Board of Studies will act in the CEO NSW Institute of Teachers position while also maintaining her BOS role.

Matters discussed by SAC included:

- *Great Teaching Inspired Learning* implementation. Minister will make a “Next steps” announcement early July. GTIL implementation is focusing on: (1) Entry to Teaching (ii) Accreditation of pre 2004 teachers.
- ACER literature review to inform school improvement planning at State level.
- National Education Reform Agreement and National Plan for School Improvement implementation actions with a focus on the cross-sectoral implications of NPSI.

SAC next meets 26 June 2013 to further consider both GTIL and NPSI implementation planning.

John Kitney
**Commission Secretary**
26 June 2013
Catholic Block Grant Authority NSW (CBGA) Briefing to the Commission

The Commission noted the briefing from the CBGA:

**GENERAL CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAM**

**2013 Commonwealth General Capital Program**

The first of the two State Priority Committee meetings were held from 22 May to 24 May 2013. All applications were thoroughly examined by members of the Preliminary with some applications leading to the requirement of further information and clarification of the proposed works in relation to the stated educational outcomes.

School site visits commenced on 7 June 2013 and will conclude on 27 June 2013.

**DIGITAL EDUCATION REVOLUTION**

The CBGA has received advice that the remaining 50% of the sustainment funding is scheduled to be paid to the CBGA on 21 June 2013.

A separate advice has been issued to Diocesan ICT managers and Heads of Finance informing them that the CBGA had re-instated the original allocations and, where it was possible, with the funding available, to make payment against claims already submitted to the CBGA for payment.

The CBGA main focus is to have all funding expensed prior to the closure of the Program on 30 September 2013, when all funds including the funding for on-costs must be fully disbursed.

**TRADE TRAINING CENTRES**

DEEWR has submitted a document to the CBGA detailing the information and processes to be supplied and followed following the Minister’s approval in July 2013.

The processes are designed to provide the costing and performance criteria form the basis for the preparation of the School Funding Agreement between DEEWR and the applicant schools (diocesan education offices for systemic schools).

There is still some level of uncertainty about the Trade Training in Schools Program and the CBGA has advised applicants that the decision and costs in preparing and collecting the information is at the applicant’s risk.

Verbal advice indicates that the Minister will possibly announce the list of successful applications in early July 2013. Should further information become available, the CBGA will advise applicants accordingly.

John Kitney
Commission Secretary
26 June 2013