CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION, NEW SOUTH WALES

THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY NINTH MEETING

22 August 2013

SUMMARY REPORT

The 349th meeting of the Catholic Education Commission, New South Wales was held on 22 August 2013 at the Mary MacKillop Centre North Sydney. The meeting was chaired by Bishop Anthony Fisher OP.

A Summary Report of the Commission meeting is provided below:


Bishop Anthony gave his account of WYD in July 2013 where he travelled with 250 of Parramatta’s youth from parishes, schools and chaplaincies.

The Parramatta contingent first went on mission to Lima, Peru and experienced firsthand the “direst poverty one is ever likely to see”, the like of which these pilgrims had never seen at home. They experienced real fraternity with the Lima peoples in the favelas and local communities. The pilgrims served the poor by participating in construction projects, developed great love and affection with the Lima peoples and created a bond of friendship that now extends half way across the world.

The pilgrims were genuinely prayerful. Their backgrounds were varied and their knowledge of the Divine Office, the Rosary and the Eucharistic Adoration were at different stages before the pilgrimage. They lapped up their experiences of prayer and demonstrated that they were on pilgrimage “to encounter Jesus Christ and His Church”. They were particularly enamoured with Pope Francis.

Commissioners agreed with Bishop Anthony’s assessment of the outcomes of World Youth Day. They concurred with his post WYD prayer for all participants:

- that pilgrims will continue their passion for service of the poor and some will take up posts as lay missionaries;
- the things pilgrims learnt about themselves will hold them in good stead into the future;
- the new ways pilgrims have learnt to pray, and the rhythm of prayer, will hopefully be fostered in their schools and parishes now they are back;
- that there will be opportunities in Australia to nurture pilgrims’ hunger for a greater closeness to and knowledge of Christ and his Church; and
- pilgrims will continue the mandate they received from the Holy Father and the encouragement from the two weeks away to deepen their Catholic identity and express it in various forms of mission in the future.
2. National School Funding Model

Commissioners noted that the Better Schools Program is likely to deliver an increase in funding in 2014 of around three per cent with the major increases in funding being delivered from 2018/19. Funding for all existing Commonwealth National Partnerships and Targeted Programs will be rolled into the Better Schools Program from 2014.

A Memorandum of Understanding is required to be executed with the Commonwealth by 31 December 2013. This MOU will include principles underpinning the CEC funding model for distribution of grants across NSW Catholic Systemic Schools. Commissioners will be discussing this matter over the next few months. Execution of the MOU is a pre-condition of funding from 1 January 2014.

3. Early Childhood Education

Commissioners considered the Early Childhood and Out of School Hours scoping reports. Commissioners requested that a second stage commence, namely, the development of a vision and implementation strategy, including the provision of risk analysis.

The Commission requested the Executive Director to establish a small Working Party to develop an implementation vision for early Childhood Education and Out of School Hours care. A progress report is due to be submitted to the 23 October 2013 Commission meeting.

4. Education Policy Committee Membership

A casual vacancy on the Committee has arisen. Christopher Smyth Secondary Schools Consultant, Wagga Wagga Catholic Schools Office was appointed to the Education Policy Committee for the period 22 August 2013 to 31 December 2015.

5. NSW State Literacy and Numeracy Plan

At its 14 February 2013 meeting, the Commission reviewed the 2013 – 2016 State Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan Funding Agreement. The Commission agreed that the 98 schools targeted in 2012 would continue to be the targeted schools for 2013. In both 2012 and 2013, the annual allocation ($7.02 million) is to meet FTE teacher targets across funded schools, currently 60 FTE teachers are funded under the Program.

The Commission also proposed that a review of Catholic schools targeted under the State Action Plan take place towards the end of 2013 to allow review of 2012-2013 outcomes along with consideration of the outcomes of the 2013 Improving Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership.

For 2014, the Commission will receive $7.701 million to fund 66 FTE (an increase on the 2013 allocation of $7.02 million for 60 FTE).

Commissioners agreed that the process for identifying 2014 target schools will involve:

- applying 2013 NAPLAN data (which becomes available on 13 September 2013) to develop a ‘long list’ of possible schools;
- developing notional diocesan ‘funding/FTE envelopes’; and
- Dioceses applying local judgement to determine a school’s inclusion, or not.

The proposed list will be considered at the 23 October 2013 Commission meeting.
6. Commission Decisions

The Commission:

- endorsed the CEC *Great Teaching Inspired Learning* action commitments; and
- authorised the CEC Executive Director to sign the MOU for the SWD Nationally Consistent Data Collection Project.

7. Truth, Justice and Healing Commission (TJHC)

Commissioners were addressed as part of the associated Strategy Day by TJHC Head Francis Sullivan. Emerging Royal Commission challenges for Catholic schools were identified.

Recently the Australian Bishops’ Truth Justice and Healing Commission contacted the CEC Secretariat with proposals for TJHC engagement with NSW Catholic schools. The TJHC is considering the development of: Royal Commission information for school communities; A Royal Commission issues survey of schools; and Online classroom information activities / “packs”.

The TJHC has been advised that:

- contact with Congregational Schools should be direct after liaison with CEC; and
- contact with Systemic schools should be through each Diocesan Catholic Schools Authority after liaison with CEC.

8. National Catholic Education Commission

The newly formed National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) met for the first time on Wednesday 7 August in Melbourne. As the first meeting of the new Commission, there was discussion of the nature and scope of the NCEC’s mandate, how the Commission will function and where it will be located. The meeting also benefited from a presentation by Francis Sullivan, CEO, Truth, Justice and Healing Council and addressed a number of key issues which included the stance NCEC will take on school funding for the September Federal election.

The meeting was followed by a mass at the St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop) Chapel on the St Patrick’s campus of the Australian Catholic University then a dinner hosted by Bishop Greg O’Kelly to recognise the significant contribution of Mrs Therese Temby (as Chair) and Dr Bill Griffiths (as CEO) to the NCEC and the life of Catholic education in Australia, from September 2008 to 30 June 2013. The mass and dinner were attended by His Excellency Archbishop Paul Gallagher, the Papal Nuncio to Australia, together with Archbishop Denis Hart, Bishop Gerard Holohan and former NCEC Chair Monsignor Tom Doyle AO, along with Senator Jacinta Collins, Minister for Mental Health and Ageing representing the Prime Minister and the Hon Christopher Pyne, Shadow Minster for Education.
9. **Great Teaching Inspired Learning**

On 13 August 2013, St Michael’s Stanmore hosted the NSW Minister of Education and Communities, the Hon. Adrian Piccoli MP announced a number of measures to support the implementation of *Great Teaching, Inspired Learning*. These include new programs attracting more high scoring HSC students, supporting improved teacher education, performance management for teachers and new processes for dismissing underperforming teachers. While it was announced that $155 million has been allocated to implementation in NSW government schools, both Catholic and Independent schools are committed to providing improved support for new and existing teachers, identifying prospective teacher education students and implementing programs for existing teachers to be accredited with the new AITSL teaching standards, including the higher levels, through the NSW Institute of Teachers. From 2014, the Institute will work with all education authorities to bring of NSW teachers under the scope of the Institute of Teachers Act 2004 by 2018.

John Kitney  
**Commission Secretary**  
5 September 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 2014 General Capital Funding process is on schedule and a list of recommended projects will be tabled at the 18 September 2013 Commission meeting, and then onto the Minister for approval. DEEWR advised that CBGA would receive about $36 million per annum for 2014 to 2017. This funding was more than anticipated, and so the CBGA has brought forward about $4.5m funding for 2013 – increasing the 2013 funding from $29.5m to about $34m.

TRADE TRAINING CENTRES

CBGA and the recommended TTC 2013 applicants had been kept in limbo about the funding of the new round of TTC. However, today DEEWR has advised that funding of $13.8 million for CEC’s eight applicants has been approved in-principle by the Minister.

John Kitney
Commission Secretary
5 September 2013