

Media Release

Former public sector chief to chair new Catholic schools body

A distinguished former public servant has been appointed to chair Catholic Schools NSW, a new body that will oversee the state's 545 Catholic diocesan schools from next year.

Steve Sedgwick AO comes into the role after a 40 year career in the public sector, which included five years as Australian Public Service Commissioner and 10 as Secretary of the departments of Finance, Employment and Education, serving governments of all persuasions.

Mr Sedgwick has developed and led significant change agendas as both an agency head and a senior leader in the Australian Public Service. His expertise is in economic and social policy, effective governance, leadership development and intergovernmental relations. He represented Australia and other governments on the Asian Development Bank board from 2002 to 2007.

Mr Sedgwick served as Senior Economic Adviser to Prime Minister Bob Hawke for three years from late 1985, a period of major transformational reform of the Australian economy.

Currently, he is Deputy Chairman of the Board of Sir Roland Wilson Foundation based at the Australian National University and also serves on international advisory panels to the public services of Canada and Singapore.

CECNSW chairman Bishop Peter Comensoli said Mr Sedgwick will bring substantial expertise and experience to the Catholic schools sector as it moves into a new era.

"As I announced in March, Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW) will replace the structure that has represented Catholic education and its 11 diocesan schools offices in this state for the past 20 years," Bishop Comensoli said.

"CSNSW will have a greater focus on funding, compliance and maximising education outcomes.

"Steve Sedgwick - with his extensive experience in managing change and devising and promoting economic and social policy reforms to improve outcomes for the community - is therefore the ideal person to chair the new body and deliver improvements on behalf of the 220,000 students in our diocesan schools system."

Bishop Comensoli also announced that academic Anne Cummins will join him and Mr Sedgwick on the new CSNSW Board. Professor Cummins has been Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students, Learning and Teaching) at the Australian Catholic University since July 2009.

"Anne brings a wealth of teaching and learning knowledge to CSNSW," Bishop Comensoli said.

"She has extensive experience in education as an executive and a consultant. For 23 years, she was an educator and executive in the Catholic education system, including principal of Merici College in the ACT. She has a longstanding commitment to equity and access in education and children and young peoples' services."

CSNSW, a new entity owned by NSW Bishops, will replace Catholic Education Commission NSW as the representative body of the state's Catholic diocesan schools from 1 January 2018.

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