



Diocese of Toowoomba
CATHOLIC EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

Friday, 05 February 2016

Kids are discovering more in Catholic schools

Toowoomba: Friday, 05 February 2016, saw an increased number of students discovering more in their new classrooms with their teachers in the 31 schools in the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba.

In a successful start to the year, new Executive Director of Catholic Schools, Dr Patrick Coughlan, said, "I am delighted to see so many school kids excited to be heading back to school and I wish everyone of them the best for a successful and enjoyable year."

The 2016 year for Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Toowoomba has started with a strong commitment to continual delivery of a quality education in a community of care. With a number of retirements and/or relocation last year, five new Principals and 46 new teachers have been appointed to take up new positions in schools this year.

Dr Coughlan said, "since August 2015 Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Toowoomba have seen incremental increases in enrolments. Many of these increases can be attributed to our practice of listening and collaborating with our local communities. We have heard them about adding additional grades and classes to our schools.

"Last year St Mary's, Goondiwindi accepted a Year 8 class for the first time. Mary MacKillop Catholic College, Highfields continues to grow with a new Year 8 class. We anticipate the school will continue on this trajectory as it moves towards a P-12 school by 2020. St Thomas More's and Mater Dei have also grown to include additional Prep classes.

"Our secondary schools and colleges have continued to grow with an overall percentage growth of approximately 1.5%. Other primary schools in Toowoomba such as Holy Name and St Saviour's Primary School have also seen continued growth.

"A key focus for all of our schools is to be leaders in the provision of an inclusive and contemporary Catholic education. We want students to leave our schools prepared and empowered to take the next steps in their life's pathway. I feel very privileged that our schools are the school of choice for so many."

For further information, please contact Kirsty Hogarth, Communications and Marketing Officer via email at kirsty.hogarth@twb.catholic.edu.au or phone 4637 1408.

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About the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba

The Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba covers the geographic areas of the Darling Downs, the Granite Belt, Maranoa, Warrego and Gregory South Districts of Queensland.

The Diocese provides a wide range of services to these communities including:

- Schools (education)
- Social welfare
- Aged care

Provision of these services makes a significant contribution to strengthening and supporting the social and economic fabric of these local communities and supporting the Government's policies.

About Catholic Schools

The largest of the services provided by the Diocese is education. Since 1973, Catholic Schools (formerly Catholic Education) has worked collaboratively with support from the Federal and State governments and other non-state school sectors to provide a quality education to students across the Diocese.

Close to 10,000 students from more than 6,070 families are receiving a Catholic education in 31 schools across the Diocese.

Catholic schools supported by an administrative office employ more than 1,300 staff to provide quality teaching and support services to students and their families.

The support provided to schools is through the services of education, policy, governance, accountability, resourcing, and school improvement. The administrative office employs over 80 staff whose functions are to:

- Provide curriculum implementation, teacher development and support, inclusive education and indigenous education support that aligns with the objectives set by the Federal and State governments
- Provide advocacy support and representation, development and implementation of policies that respond to the objectives set by the Church, Federal and State governments
- Ensure compliance of regulations, procedures and guidelines set by the Church, Federal and State governments
- Provide accountability in the implementation and support of frameworks that monitor, report and provide feedback on outcomes on objectives set by the Church, Federal and State governments such as curriculum, learning, teaching and assessment, student protection, work health and safety etc
- Provide corporate services such as HR, finance, capital development, administration, ICT and demonstrating effective stewardship
- Implement and support schools improvement frameworks in line with objectives set by the Federal and State governments

School funding

Catholic schools receive about 81% of the total average government annual funding per student received by government schools (\$9,238 / student in a Catholic school vs \$11,440 / student for a government school).

Children educated in Catholic schools deliver significant savings to the Queensland government and taxpayers.

Funding for Catholic schools equates to:

- 59% provided by the Australian government
- 20% by the Queensland government
- 21% is provided by parent and community contributions.