



Diocese of Toowoomba
CATHOLIC EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday, 19 Jan 2016

New innovative leader for Schools in the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba

Toowoomba: Tuesday, 19 January 2016, sees school education in the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba being steered by a new Executive Director of Catholic Schools, Dr Patrick Coughlan.

Bishop McGuckin announced the appointment of Dr Coughlan in November 2015 and said, "I am looking forward with anticipation to working with Dr Coughlan. He is an innovative and experienced educational leader with a broad range of skills and expertise."

On discussing his recent appointment, Dr Coughlan said, "I am excited to be taking up the position of Executive Director of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Toowoomba. I will focus on ensuring that we continue the rich tradition of delivering quality education in a community of care to students within our schools."

Dr Coughlan believes that Catholic Schools has an opportunity to re-engage their local communities within the Diocese of Toowoomba. Beginning with an open dialogue on what is important to families. He will focus on a listening tour during the first semester of this year.

Dr Coughlan wishes to re-ignite discussion on the important role Catholic Schools play within regional and remote communities.

"Our schools provide choices for families. Families and communities should not be disadvantaged, simply because of where they live. We at Catholic Schools will be listening to see how we can partner with local communities to deliver the best educational outcomes.

"A key focus of a Catholic education is educating the whole child – intellectually, spiritually, physically, morally and emotionally. We want students to leave our schools prepared and empowered to take the next steps in their life's pathway."

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

...ends...

Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Education contacts:

Name	Kirsty Hogarth
Company	Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Education Office
Telephone	+61 (0)7 4637 1408
Mobile	+61 (0)438 789 909
Email	kirsty.hogarth@twb.catholic.edu.au
Web	www.twb.catholic.edu.au

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 employs 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 which aligns with the objectives set by the Federal and State governments
- Provide advocacy support and representation, development and implementation of policies which 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 which 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 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.