

TO: Principals of Catholic Schools
RE: Catholic School Parents SA

Dear Principals

On behalf of the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools, I am pleased to announce the formation of Catholic School Parents SA.

Parents and carers have always played a pivotal role in the success of Catholic schools in South Australia. This new parent representative and advocacy body will further enhance parent engagement and participation in the education and care of children and young people in our Catholic schools.

In 2020, the Commission engaged an independent reviewer to consult with parents in all Catholic schools to seek their feedback as to whether they felt they had an adequate voice in the education of their children and what kind of support they would like to see in the future.

Feedback was also sought from school principals, the existing parent body, and the national body representing parents in Catholic schools.

While acknowledging that the current structures have served parents and our school communities well in the past, the review notes that less than one third of Catholic school parent communities are connected with the current body.

The review also recognised that parents and carers have busy lives and are looking for new ways to engage in and support the education of their children.

The Commission believes that the establishment of Catholic School Parents SA will enable more effective engagement, partnership, and advocacy by and for parents of children and young people in Catholic schools in South Australia in these changing times.

Catholic School Parents SA will be closely aligned with Catholic School Parents Australia, the national body that represents and advocates for parents and carers of children and young people in Catholic schools across the nation, and will have broad representation of parents of students in our schools.

The Association will have a strong connection to parent groups in local schools, the Archbishop and Bishop of the Diocese of Port Pirie, the Commission, and the Director of Catholic Education.

We are excited by the opportunity to engage with a wide range of Catholic school parent communities in new ways in 2021 and beyond. I am also pleased to announce that the Commission has appointed Mr Bruno Vieceli to lead the establishment of this new body and are confident that his experiences in school and system leadership, and stakeholder networks equip him well for this task.

Further details regarding this exciting initiative will be shared in early 2021.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denis Ralph". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Professor Denis W. Ralph

Chair

South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools

25 November 2020