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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

## A Message from the Board Chair

### Update on the review of the CECV

Last year, Archbishop Comensoli, together with the Bishops of Ballarat, Sale and Sandhurst, as the Bishop-members of the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV), commissioned an independent review into the role, governance and operations of the CECV.

Through extensive consultation and feedback, the review panel identified a number of opportunities to strengthen the role of CECV and enhance the leadership and support it provides 500 Catholic schools across the four dioceses in Victoria.

Today the bishops have released their Response and Directions document, which comprises their response to the material aspects of the review.

Importantly, the role of CECV as the peak body for Catholic Education in Victoria will remain largely unchanged, with the proposed changes focussed on enhancing the governance structure and operating model of CECV.

Whilst the implementation of these changes will take some time, the bishop-members have prioritised two areas for immediate action which directly impact MACS. I therefore wanted to advise you of these changes.

### Priority recommendations

Currently, CECV is operationally supported through a Service Level Agreement with MACS. A key recommendation from the review is that CECV establishes its own separately resourced secretariat.

This is a natural progression given that MACS is now an owner operator of schools and highlights the need for both entities to be appropriately distinct from one another.

Another key recommendation is the separation of the Executive Director roles of CECV and MACS.

Given its responsibility for the governance and operation of almost 300 schools, MACS is a fundamentally different organisation to its predecessor, Catholic Education Melbourne (CEM). That, together with the growing regulatory demands on CECV, means that a separate Executive Director is required for each organisation.

### What this means for MACS

As a result of these recommendations, Jim Miles, currently Executive Director for both CECV and MACS, will step out of the MACS leadership role to focus solely on leading CECV. This will occur at the end of October.

Naturally, we are sad to see Jim leaving MACS, however, this is an exciting time for him and for Catholic education in Victoria. We have every confidence in his ability and leadership to deliver on the significant task of establishing an enhanced CECV.

MACS has undergone significant change in recent years and much has been achieved. Jim has been our steadfast and determined leader throughout that change. On behalf of the MACS Board, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Jim for his very significant contribution to MACS, and our predecessor organisation, CEM.

CECV establishing its own secretariat will require staff and processes currently shared across CECV and MACS to be separated. This will be a complex undertaking requiring MACS and CECV to work closely together. The overriding objective for both organisations will be to establish a robust and sustainable CECV, while at the same time minimising the disruption to MACS.

As we work through this, MACS office staff who currently split their time across both organisations will, in time, be able to focus their talents and efforts on just one. This will provide greater clarity of role and allow staff to dedicate themselves to the mission of one organisation.

These changes will occur largely within the MACS office, with little or no impact expected in MACS schools.

## Next steps

In the coming months we will commence consultation with MACS office staff in respect of the separation. Our intention is to begin the transition with those teams that work principally on CECV matters. We will then transition teams that work across both CECV and MACS, which will require more delineated roles to be determined for these teams. This will all be worked through in careful consultation with these colleagues.

Initially, these teams and staff will remain with MACS and operate under the existing service level agreement with CECV. At this stage we expect teams and staff to move formally to CECV in mid to late 2023.

While we have begun an executive search to fill the MACS Executive Director role, I am pleased to announce that Dr Edward Simons, currently Director of Governance and Strategy at MACS, has been appointed by the Board and endorsed by Archbishop Peter, as MACS' Acting Executive Director. This will provide important continuity for our MACS community.

During his appointment as Acting Executive Director, Ed has been asked by the MACS board to focus his efforts on the early implementation of our recently released strategic plan – *MACS 2030: Forming Lives to Enrich the World*. He will also work closely with Jim and CECV in relation to the separation process. We warmly welcome Ed to this role and wish him well for the months ahead.

I appreciate that you may have further questions and have included additional information in an FAQ. Over the coming months, we will continue to communicate updates and progress on these important changes.

We will also be including this as a key agenda item at forthcoming MACS forums and will welcome any questions at those events, or via direct email if you would prefer.

Sincerely,



Gerard Dalbosco  
Chair, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools