



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Appointment of Executive Director of Townsville Catholic Education Office**

This morning Most Rev. Tim Harris, Bishop of Townsville announced the appointment of the new Executive Director of Catholic Education. "I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Jacqui Francis to the position of Executive Director Catholic Education for the Diocese of Townsville."

Jacqui joined the Townsville Catholic Education Office in 2013 in the newly created position of Director Organisational Services & Capability. Prior to 2013 she held senior executive roles with various major public sector agencies in NSW, with her final position being General Manager of Commercial Operations with Roads & Maritime Services.

Bishop Tim said "this position attracted a large number of very experienced applicants from across Australia. I was a member of the Selection Committee that included a range of senior Education and Church leaders."

On receiving the news of her appointment, Jacqui was very excited and is looking forward to the challenge. "I am looking forward to taking up the position and continuing the great work that Catholic Education has been doing in the Diocese. We have fabulous schools and highly skilled staff who are committed and passionate about providing an enriching Catholic school experience for our students" she said.

"Over the past four years I have enjoyed every moment working in Catholic Education and we have a very special workplace where you feel that your values are alive in what we do each and every day."

"Only last week here at St Benedict's, to see the smiling faces on the children as they walked in the gates for the first time, all wanting to be here to learn, this is duplicated in all our schools each and every day" Jacqui said.

Retiring Executive Director Dr Cathy Day said that she had been privileged and blessed to have had many positions in Diocese including these past 12 years leading Catholic Education, I will look back at with great fondness and satisfaction.

Cathy congratulated Jacqui on her new position and said, "I am absolutely delighted for her and having the good fortune to work with Jacqui for the past four years I know first-hand the many qualities and skills that she will bring to the role."

"Jacqui has a deep faith and integrity and a special love for Catholic Schools and Catholic Education in the Townsville Diocese is in very good hands" Cathy said.

Jacqui will take up her position as Executive Director in April 2018.

Townsville Catholic Education is responsible for the operation of 29 Catholic Schools, including six early learning centres and six Kindergartens, educating more than 12,500 students and employing 2,100 staff.

**For further information please contact Mr Neil Helmore, Townsville Diocesan Media Communications Officer on 0427 047 162 or email [nhelmore@tsv.catholic.org.au](mailto:nhelmore@tsv.catholic.org.au)**