

## **Leading Queensland educator appointed to new Catholic child protection and vulnerable adult watchdog**

29 January 2018

One of Queensland's leading educators has been appointed to the Catholic Church's new, independent, child protection standards setting, auditing and reporting organisation.

Dr Kerrie Tuite, current Principal of Mount Alvernia College, Brisbane and President of the Association of Catholic Secondary Schools Queensland, will join the board of Catholic Professional Standards Limited (CPSL) from February 1, 2018.

CPSL has been established by the leadership of the Australian Catholic Church in the wake of Royal Commission revelations of institutional failure in the management and response to child sexual abuse claims within Catholic schools, parishes, homes and other Catholic organisations.

CPSL will develop, audit and report on compliance with professional standards across Catholic entities. It represents a new national Church approach to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable people.

Dr Tuite was one of the first women to hold a principal position in an Australian Christian Brothers school following her appointment as Principal at St James College in Brisbane in 2002.

She is past President of the Catholic Secondary Principals Association Queensland and Board Director of Catholic Secondary Principals Australia. Dr Tuite is also a member of the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority Steering Committee for Senior Schooling Review, and a member of the Association of Heads of Independent Schools, the Australasian Alliance of Girls' Schools and Franciscan Schools Australia.

Dr Tuite said she is delighted to be joining the CPSL Board and is looking forward to playing an important role in strengthening child and vulnerable adult protections within the Catholic Church.

"Historically schools have been the location of some of the worst child sexual abuse within the Catholic Church. We need to be constantly vigilant to ensure that all the policies and standards are in place to protect children in our schools today and in the future.

"And just as importantly we need to be confident that these standards are being met and that the attention of the Church leaders, with the responsibility for protecting children within Catholic schools and other places, is sharply focused on this number one priority."

The Chair of CPSL, The Hon Geoff Giudice, said Dr Tuite comes to the Board with a wealth of experience working with children in Australia's education sector.

"Kerrie knows as much, if not more, than anyone else about the way in which the Catholic Education system operates across Australia.

"And given much of our work will centre on child protection standards within schools she will blend very well with our current Board Directors to provide expert guidance as we carry out the functions of CPSL."

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