



FEDERATION of Religious Institute and Ministerial PJP Catholic School Authorities in NSW and ACT

Friday 16 March 2018

NEW BODY FOR CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN NSW AND ACT

A new body was established yesterday evening to represent the proprietors of the 45 independently operated Catholic schools in NSW and the ACT, and their almost 42,000 students.

The full name of the new organisation is the *Federation of Religious Institute and Public Juridic Person Catholic School Authorities in NSW and ACT Ltd.*

“This Federation will represent the interests of the 17 Religious Institutes and Ministerial Public Juridic Persons who between them operate 45 Catholic schools in an increasingly complex and dynamic Australian educational system,” said the Federation’s chair, Brother Paul Oakley.

These schools provide Catholic education as part of the ministry of the local Church while being governed independently of the Catholic School Authorities who are responsible for the diocesan schools in each of the 11 Dioceses and Archdioceses in NSW and the ACT.

Br Paul said Australian schools face a challenging future, with new legal and accountability requirements in relation to child protection, funding and academic outcomes.

“Catholic schools have a strong track record of accountability and student achievement“, Br Paul said.

“The Federation’s role will be to build on the good work of its predecessor, the Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes of NSW (CLRINSW), in delivering outstanding learning environments for Australian children that also realise God’s mission in the Church.

“Each Catholic school is a particular expression of the Church’s service of this mission and an integral part of its local Diocese and of the universal Church.

“Our members govern their schools with due autonomy and freedom, while also acknowledging and valuing the interdependence that should prevail among them and with other Catholic School Authorities in the interests of the common good of the Catholic education sector.

“As well as bringing together the richness of the charisms of various Religious Institutes and Ministerial Public Juridic Persons, this Federation will foster a collaborative network of representatives to support good governance and leadership of Catholic schools.

“It will also be a forum through which members will be informed about, and may develop common positions, on issues affecting them.”

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