

Media Release

11 October 2018

Conference navigating the legal minefield for schools

Townsville Catholic Education, together with NQ Women's Legal Service, will be hosting their first **School Law Conference** here in Townsville next week.

The conference, which focuses on implications of changing legislation, risk mitigation, school liability and legislative trends will be held on Wednesday 17 October at Mercure Townsville. The agenda is packed with relevant and fascinating guest speakers, some of who include Det Snr Sgt Officer in Charge: Child Protection & Sexual Crimes Unit Townsville, Dave Miles, Senior Associate for Maurice Blackburn Lawyers Townsville, Rene Flores and Dr Louise Floyd, an Associate Professor of Law at JCU and also a Barrister to the Supreme Court of Queensland.

Workshop sessions will cover topics like Addressing toxic staff behaviour and stress claims, Cyber issues for schools and social media bullying by aggressive parents, and legal implications of student photos, accessing phone and viewing material.

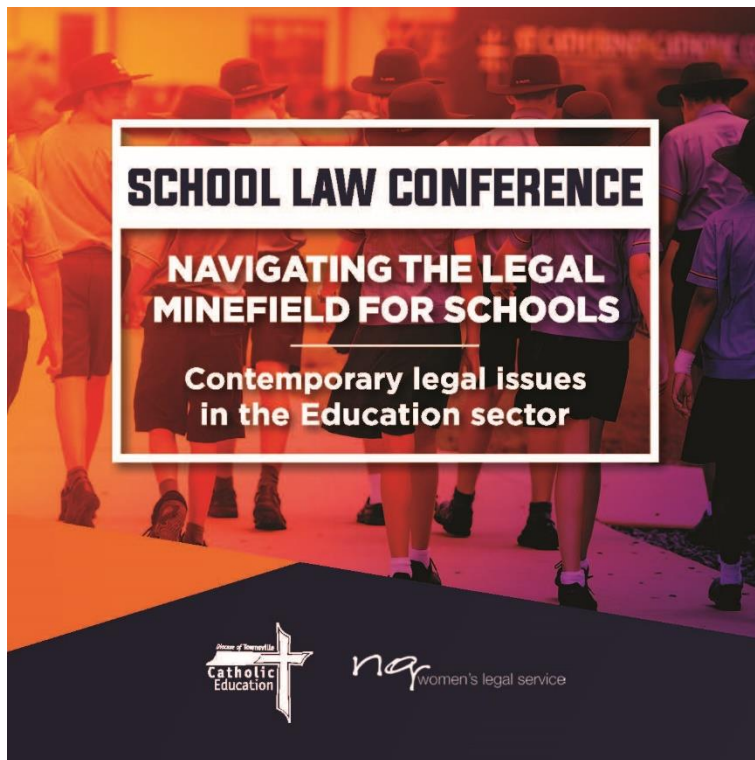
"Schools are as accountable and responsible as other businesses and organisations and must comply with various regulations," said Jennifer Blackshaw, Acting Director Organisational Services and Capability, Townsville Catholic Education.

"This conference will ensure that our schools prioritise and understand their obligations, and are being proactive and diligent in the administration of various duties. We have received repeated feedback from staff telling us just how critical school law is, and that it is often the area that can cause most angst."

The conference isn't just for Townsville Catholic Education employees, invitations have also been extended to colleagues in state and independent education.

Students from catholic schools in Townsville that have a keen interest in Law have been invited to attend, along with graduates of various Catholic schools across Queensland who are currently studying Law at James Cook University.

“We are thrilled to be hosting an event like this in Townsville. It reinforces that north of Brisbane, we need this information too, and having it delivered in our community and involving our schools, our students, and our local university means that it is convenient and relevant,” said Jennifer.



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