

Media Release

8 August 2019

The Director of Schools for the Diocese of Wollongong, Mr Peter Turner, announces his retirement after 45 years of outstanding service and leadership in Catholic Education

The Bishop of Wollongong, Bishop Brian Mascord has announced that the Director of Schools, Peter Turner has indicated his intention to retire at the end of 2019.

In a written statement, Bishop Mascord said,

Peter has made a difference to the lives of thousands of students, their families and staff and through his leadership he has directly advanced the mission of evangelisation of the Church here in the Diocese of Wollongong and throughout the Church in Australia.

As an educator and leader, Peter has made an exceptional contribution to Catholic education, in a career spanning more than 45 years. As Director of Schools, he has been preeminent as an advocate, negotiator and architect of authentic, effective Catholic schools and systems, in this diocese and beyond, at state, national and international levels.

The extent of Peter's knowledge and experience is quite remarkable and cannot really be measured. Peter's positive impact on so many people, both personally and professionally, through their association with him, is vast.

Peter will forever be admired as a wise communicator, a relational leader, a man of faith and of integrity, courage, honesty, stewardship and compassion. He has been unwavering in his profound commitment to the learning, wellbeing, growth and nurturing of faith of each individual child and young person in our care. He truly has lived the experience of knowing Jesus and making him known and loved.

Peter has guided our diocesan school system through significant challenges and emerging issues. His collaborations have built strong and lasting partnerships with parents, staff, clergy, government, the wider education sector and the community more broadly. Peter has worked tirelessly to strengthen the links between priests and principals, parishes and schools, and he has made a substantial contribution to the pastoral life of our diocese as a whole, not just in education.

As Director of Schools he has been a source of knowledge, strength, presence, encouragement, good judgement and wise counsel, for my predecessor Bishop Peter Ingham and, more recently, for me. We are both deeply grateful to Peter for his personal and professional support, wisdom, collegiality and loyalty throughout his time in the diocese. I would particularly like to acknowledge and sincerely thank Peter's wife Yvonne for walking this journey faithfully with him, for allowing and encouraging him to respond to this ministry. I would also like to thank Peter's family, for the wonderful support and love they give him. We wish the whole Turner family every happiness and pray for God's blessing on them over the years ahead.

Plans are currently making plans to host a fitting occasion to acknowledge and celebrate Peter's contribution to Catholic education in the Diocese of Wollongong. Further details will be communicated in coming weeks.

For further information &/or to arrange an opportunity for an interview with Peter, please contact Tim Gilmour (Media Liaison) on 0438 669 677.

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