

Marists strengthen school governance

Marist Association National Schools Council

In 2015 the Marist Association of Saint Marcellin Champagnat was established in response to the widespread desire of people throughout Australia who identify with Marist spirituality and tradition in their Christian vocation. With strong support from the Australian Catholic Bishops, this relatively new movement in the Church now numbers almost 1000 people. The different Marist ministries working on behalf of the Church in service to young people includes social services, overseas aid and development, and education. Spiritual formation opportunities for all members of the Association and for people operating in the different ministries is a fundamental priority.

Recently the Marist Association established a National Schools Council to further strengthen stewardship, governance and growth of Marist Schools. A group of highly regarded leaders and experts in Catholic education from across the country, accepted the invitation to become members of the first National Schools Council. Marist Schools Australia, ably supported by three Regional Councils, reports to the National Schools Council. National Director Dr Frank Malloy commented,

“With enrolments in the schools owned and governed by the Marists increasing by 6.8% over the past 5 years, the new Council will add another level of expertise and oversight, which will ultimately benefit the increasing number of families seeking a quality Catholic education in our schools. Importantly the new Council will also provide guidance in supporting MSA’s work in partnership with the 19 Dioceses in which Marist schools operate under a variety of governance arrangements.”

Members of the new Council bring a wealth of highly successful experience in leading Catholic education in a variety of contexts and settings, which include indigenous communities, remote, regional and metropolitan schools and systems, universities, and in advocacy for parents. The Council is pictured below. Chair of Council, Brother David Hall fms, commented,

“In welcoming these fine people to their roles in this important new entity for all 54 Australian Marist Schools and the Association, I look forward to further strengthening more robust, transparent and responsive governance for our work in Catholic education. This Council marks a further maturity in the work of Marist Schools Australia.



Front Row L-R:

Mr Peter Grace, Executive Director for the Council of Catholic School Parents (NSW/ACT), **Professor Tania Aspland**, President of the Australian Council of Deans of Education, **Professor Brother David Hall fms**, Dean of the La Salle Academy Australian Catholic University (Chair of Council), **Mr Richard Sidorko**, Former Marist Principal, and Member of the Marist Mission Council, **Ms Elizabeth Denny**, Senior Leader, Sydney Catholic Schools.

Back Row L-R:

Ms Audrey Brown, Director of Education (Emeritus), Catholic Education, Diocese of Ballarat, **Dr Frank Malloy**, National Director, Marist Schools Australia (Executive Officer), **Brother Dan Hollamby fms (AM)**, Principal Consultant Catholic Education Northern Territory, **Dr Michael Bezzina**, Educational Consultant, Director Emeritus Teaching and Learning Sydney Catholic Schools, **Mr Peter Turner**, Executive Director Emeritus, Catholic Education Diocese of Wollongong.