

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## **CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS AUSTRALIA JOINS IN CELEBRATING THE NATIONAL LAUNCH OF THE BICENTENARY OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA) congratulates all involved with the national launch of the celebration of the bicentenary of Catholic education in Australia.

Across 200 years, Parents and Carers have placed great *Faith in the future* in seeking out a Catholic education for their children. The wonderful partnership between many millions of Parents and Carers and Catholic schools has assisted Catholic education to grow from strength to strength.

While 1820 saw the first 'official' Catholic school in Parramatta, our many school communities take great pride in celebrating the life of their Catholic school, their *alma mater*. "200 years causes us to pause and reflect on what we value in being able to access a Catholic education for our children," noted CSPA Chair Karl Rodrigues, "and in many ways we are ensuring through our support and partnership that our Catholic schools will continue to be here for all Australians across another 200 years and beyond."

The Parents and Carers of over 768,000 students in the 1751 Catholic schools across Australia, provide a healthy snapshot of where we have come since those humble beginnings in Parramatta.

"CSPA enthusiastically represents and advocates for Parents and Carers with children in all Catholic schools" Mr Rodrigues stated, "We can never take our Catholic schools for granted."

"CSPA takes this opportunity to sincerely thank the many School Staff, Catholic Education Agencies, Parishes, Governments and Parents and Carers for ensuring our Australian Catholic schools continue to flourish and provide the rich learning experiences for our children and our nation's future," Mr Rodrigues concluded.