

Media Release

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Action today can protect you tomorrow – Conference navigating the legal minefield for schools

Townsville Catholic Education will be hosting their bi-annual School Law Conference at the Ville Resort-Casino tomorrow, Wednesday 19 October.

The one day conference focuses on implications of changing legislation, school liability and legislative trends.



The event's keynote speaker, Melinda Tankard Reist is an author, speaker, media commentator, blogger and advocate for young people. She is best known for her work addressing sexualisation, objectification, harms of pornography, sexual exploitation, trafficking and violence against women. Her keynote address will focus on the impact of porn and porn culture on young people and how this exposure can be ameliorated.

Other guest speakers include Diane Ruhl from Ruhl Family Law Centre, Tracey Jessie from Jessie Lawyers, Dr Elizabeth Dickson from Queensland University of Technology, Sharon Simi and Eboni Harrison from Blue Card Services, John Hamilton from McInnes Wilson Lawyers, Jessica Lipsett from Corney & Lind Lawyers and Tim McGrath from Miller Harris Lawyers.

Workshop sessions will cover topics such as Family court orders, managing under-performing employees with mental health issues, Vaping, Sexting and other student offences. The event will conclude with a panel Q&A giving attendees the opportunity to ask those important questions.

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

"We have received feedback from schools telling us how critical school law is, and that it's an area which can cause a lot of angst for staff. The School Law Conference ensures that our schools prioritise and understand their obligations and are being proactive and diligent in the administration of various duties."

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

The conference will conclude with a creative performance by students from Ryan Catholic College, Kirwan.

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