

MEDIA RELEASE

28 August 2023



CSPA's Decade of Empowerment: Celebrating 10 Years of Advocacy and Engagement

A decade of empowering Australian Catholic school parents culminated in a celebration as Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA) commemorated its 10-year anniversary. Last Friday evening, past and present council members, partners and well-wishers came together to celebrate CSPA's impactful journey. From August 25th to 27th in Sydney, CSPA not only celebrated this milestone, but CSPA Council also took time to meet to reflect and collaborate and be inspired to continue our journey as an important partner in education in Australia.

The anniversary celebration was attended by guests representing some of our most important partners including Bishop Danny Meagher from the Archdiocese of Sydney, Hon. Jacinta Collins, Executive Director National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC), David de Carvalho, CEO of ACARA and special guest Tony O'Byrne, inaugural chair of CSPA. Heartfelt well-wishes and captivating stories were shared, underscoring the organization's transformative role as the national voice of Australian Catholic school parents.

The celebration not only cast a nostalgic glance at the past but also looked forward to the future with renewed enthusiasm. CSPA national chair, Andrea Obeyesekere, summed up the collective sentiment, stating, "Our journey thus far has been remarkable, but our gaze is firmly fixed on the horizon. The next 10 years will be an exhilarating chapter of transformation, where our foundation will enable us to advocate respectfully and fervently with government and within Catholic Education."

Andrea's vision for the future aligns seamlessly with the productive time the council spent together in Sydney. Amidst the celebrations, council members used the opportunity to discuss advocacy initiatives and timely parent engagement projects. These initiatives covered contemporary educational subjects such as fostering positive home-school communication, student health and wellbeing, addressing vaping concerns, nurturing respectful relationships, navigating the impact of artificial intelligence, and managing mobile phone usage in schools.

The celebration was more than a mere event; it was a testament to CSPA's unwavering commitment to empower parents, drive positive change, and shape a vibrant future for Australian Catholic school communities.

For further information, please contact:

John O'Brien

Catholic School Parents Australia

Phone: 0428 283 754

Email: john.obrien@cspa.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.cspa.catholic.edu.au/

About CSPA: Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA) is the peak national organization advocating for the interests of Catholic school parents in Australia. Over the last decade, CSPA has championed parent engagement, quality education, and collaborative partnerships. With the firm belief that parents are pivotal in shaping educational excellence, CSPA continues to pave the way for a brighter, empowered future.

Ends – August 28, 2023