

MEDIA RELEASE

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CEnet's 'cechat' set to transform Catholic education by reducing teacher workload through innovative AI

CEnet, the not-for-profit Information, Communication and Learning Technology (ICLT) services organisation formed to support Catholic education, and owned by its 17 Member Dioceses, has achieved a significant milestone in the rollout of **cechat**, the cutting-edge AI tool uniquely designed to alleviate teacher workloads and enhance personalised learning experiences within Catholic education.

Developed after extensive consultations with teachers, administrators and technology experts, the multi-state and territory **cechat** pilot program, has recently commenced onboarding its first primary and secondary school students. This is a pivotal step in a collective mission to deliver a tailored AI solution that addresses the specific needs of Catholic schools.

Dr Alan Ibbett, Head of IT at CEnet, emphasises the importance of this collaboration: "The success of **cechat** is inextricably linked to the strong partnership we've forged with educators across Australia. From the outset, we recognised the importance of creating a tool that is not only innovative but also deeply rooted in the practical needs and aspirations of those on the front lines of education. That's why we made listening and collaboration cornerstones of our development process".

Addressing teacher workload with innovative AI

cechat stands out by directly tackling the increasing demands on teachers' time. Tailored with educator insight, **cechat** is engineered to give teachers back valuable hours, allowing them to concentrate on what they do best: fostering meaningful interactions and deeper learning experiences for their students.

The phased rollout by CENet will allow teachers to gradually integrate AI into their classrooms, supported by comprehensive training and certification programs to promote best practice.

Key features and benefits

cechat is a practical tool already demonstrating its value in Catholic schools participating in the pilot program. Leveraging artificial intelligence, **cechat** is designed to:

- **Automate administrative tasks:** Streamline scheduling and provide instant answers to frequently asked questions, reducing administrative burdens.
- **Offer pedagogical support:** Assist teachers with lesson planning, suggest relevant resources, and provide student engagement strategies, enriching the learning experience.
- **Enhance communication:** Improve communication between teachers, students, parents, and administrators, ensuring a smooth flow of information and quick resolution of queries.
- **Support differentiated learning:** Generate varied content and worksheets tailored to individual student needs, promoting inclusive and personalised education.
- **Provide instant feedback:** Deliver timely feedback to students, addressing their specific learning gaps and encouraging continuous improvement.
- **Assist with explaining concepts:** Simplify complex topics, making learning more accessible and engaging for all students.

Along with the Catholic education community, CENet has worked with multiple developers, including academics at The University of Sydney, to meet the needs identified by Catholic educators and provide a practical, relevant tool for improving teaching and learning outcomes.

Flexibility and adaptability for the future

Unlike proprietary systems, **cechat** is designed to be supplier-agnostic, ensuring adaptability and the ability to leverage the best AI technologies as they evolve. This flexibility allows schools to integrate **cechat** seamlessly with their existing infrastructure and choose the resources that best meet their unique needs, providing flexibility and adaptability as new models emerge.

Be part of the cechat initiative

CEnet invites all Catholic education entities to join the final phase of the **cechat** pilot program, running until April 2025. This is an invaluable opportunity to gain hands-on experience, provide feedback, and contribute to the development of a tool that will advance digital learning and teaching in Catholic education.

Following the pilot program, CEnet anticipates a broader release of **cechat** for use by the wider Catholic education sector from May 2025.

For more information about the **cechat** pilot program, please visit cechat.ai.

About CEnet

CEnet is a not-for-profit Information, Communication and Learning Technology (ICLT) services organisation supporting Catholic Diocese networks that connect school communities across metropolitan, regional and rural New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. CEnet provides ICLT services to over 330,000 Kindergarten to Year 12 students, teachers and administrative staff across Australia.

CEnet. The Catholic Education Network.

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[Student typing on laptop using **cechat**](#)

[CEnet's AI Technical Manager, Prem Radhakrishnan implementing **cechat** at a school](#)

[cechat logo](#)

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