

CSPA Council gathers in Hobart for prayer, planning and shared purpose

Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA) council members gathered in beautiful Hobart over the weekend of 21–22 February for two days of prayer, planning and national collaboration.

Representatives from the ACT, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia attended the meeting. The gathering reflected CSPA's ongoing commitment to ensuring parent voice remains central in Catholic education across Australia.

Chair Andrea Obeyesekere said the Hobart meeting was an important opportunity to reconnect in person and focus on shared purpose.

“Coming together face-to-face allowed us to listen deeply to one another, strengthen relationships and keep our shared mission at the forefront,” she said. “CSPA exists to serve and amplify the voices of Catholic school parents, and this weekend reconfirmed for us how vital that work is.”

The weekend was grounded in prayer, with members celebrating Mass together with Fr Michael Twigg OMI on Saturday evening. Council members also took time to enjoy Hobart's natural beauty and shared a dinner together, strengthening the sense of community that underpins their work.

“Prayer and fellowship are not extras for us, they shape how we lead and how we make decisions,” Ms Obeyesekere said. “They remind us that our work is ultimately about families and faith.”

A major focus of the meeting was the development of CSPA's Strategic Plan for 2026–2028, with council engaging in facilitated discussions on clarifying CSPA's purpose and identifying clear priorities for the coming years.

Council also discussed:

- advocacy and engagement with government and national Catholic education bodies
- financial sustainability and governance, and
- supporting parents and carers in an increasingly complex educational landscape.

“There was strong alignment around the need for clarity, confidence and collaboration as we look ahead,” Ms Obeyesekere said. “Our discussions were thoughtful, honest and focused on ensuring CSPA is well positioned for the future.”

The Hobart meeting concluded with plans for the recruitment of a new Executive Officer, planning for upcoming council meetings later in 2026 and a renewed commitment to working together nationally.

Ms Obeyesekere said the council left Hobart encouraged and energised, with a renewed commitment to working together as a national parent body. She also expressed CSPA's sincere thanks to the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) for its ongoing support of CSPA and its work with Catholic school parents across Australia.