

The Board of Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW) has unanimously determined that there is a loss of confidence in Dallas McNerney's ability to lead the organisation into the future.

As such, the Board has now terminated Mr McNerney's employment agreement with Catholic Schools NSW.

On 1 July 2026 the Board of CSNSW was made aware that CEO Dallas McNerney was to be called to provide evidence to an Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) Inquiry as part of Operation Rosny. Mr McNerney immediately stepped aside as CEO.

CSNSW broader response to the ICAC Inquiry

Mr Peter Yates will remain as interim CEO at Catholic Schools NSW, while a search process is conducted for the role.

Mrs Anna Dickinson was appointed Chair of Catholic Schools NSW on 7 July 2026. Mrs Dickinson has extensive experience in Catholic and broader education, spanning teaching, educational leadership and governance. Mrs Dickinson has worked with a sub-committee and the broader Board during the ongoing Inquiry along with speaking to internal and external stakeholders.

It was not appropriate to make any public statement regarding the Inquiry or key witnesses, until their initial ICAC examination had been conducted.

In the opening statement Counsel Assisting the Commission stated that there was no suggestion that CSNSW is responsible for the alleged conduct being investigated by the Commission, nor that any CSNSW Board or executive were aware of the alleged actions of Mr McNerney. The matters that are the subject of the Inquiry are, though, of deep concern to CSNSW and to its key stakeholders.

The Board will work constructively with them to ensure there is an externally conducted review of CSNSW's operations.

CSNSW recognises the dedicated group of teachers, educators, parents and broader faith-based school communities across 594 Catholic schools, educating 274,000 students in New South Wales.

The Board renews its commitment to supporting their good work and the mission of Catholic education.

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