



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

MANDATE

OF THE

BISHOPS COMMISSION

FOR

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

NOVEMBER 2019

Preamble

Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Matt 28:19

1. Membership and Meetings

- 1.1. The Commission shall comprise four (4) members as the Conference by-laws determine.
- 1.2. The Commission shall ordinarily meet four times annually at a time and place that the members determine.
- 1.3. The Commission shall meet using communications technology when the agenda or circumstances warrant.

2. Areas of Responsibility

The Commission sets priorities in consultation with the Conference, plans and develops strategies at the national level to promote the life and mission of the Catholic Church in Australia in the following specific areas of responsibility.

- 2.1. Catholic school - early childhood, primary and secondary education
- 2.2. The religious education of the school-aged people who are not attending Catholic schools
- 2.3. Catholic tertiary education

3. Particular Functions

In particular, the Commission performs the following functions:

- 3.1. The Commission monitors the activity of the Church and its agencies through membership of the National Catholic Education Commission and oversight of the work of the National Catholic Education Commission and its Faith Formation and Religious Education Standing Committee.
- 3.2. The Commission develops national policies in specific areas of its responsibility as approved or requested by the Conference. The Commission will normally conduct this function through the National Catholic Education Commission.
- 3.3. The Commission, in accordance with Conference policy, undertakes public and private advocacy in support of:
 - 3.3.1. Catholic schools
 - 3.3.2. Catholic school-aged young people not attending Catholic schools
 - 3.3.3. Catholic tertiary education sector

- 3.4. The Commission undertakes such specific projects as the Conference may from time to time approve or request.

4. Advisory Role

The Commission advises the Conference and its members on issues that arise in the areas of its responsibility and, where appropriate, makes recommendations for action that the Conference might undertake at a national level.

5. Advisory Bodies

The Commission establishes, in accordance with the mandates in Schedule 1, the following advisory bodies to assist it in its responsibilities:

- 5.1. National Catholic Education Commission

6. Relations

The Commission maintains relations through the National Catholic Education Commission

- 6.1.1 State and Territory Catholic Education Commissions
- 6.1.2 Australian Government Department of Education and its relevant committees
- 6.1.3 Federal Minister for Education and Training
- 6.1.4 Council of Australian Governments Education Council and its committees
- 6.1.5 Shadow Minister for Education and Training and those responsible for the education portfolio in other political parties including cross bench members
- 6.1.6 Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority
- 6.1.7 Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership
- 6.1.8 Education Services Australia
- 6.1.9 Australian Council of Educational Research
- 6.1.10 Asia Education Foundation
- 6.1.11 Catholic School Parents Australia
- 6.1.12 Primary and Secondary Catholic School Principals Associations
- 6.1.13 Independent Schools Council of Australia and other groupings of independent schools

6.1.14 Australian Education Union

6.1.15 Research Groups and commentators such as the Grattan Institute

6.1.16 Public Relations and Media organisations

6.2 The Commission maintains a direct relationship with

6.2.1 Australian Catholic tertiary institutions

6.2.2 National Confraternity of Christian Doctrine

6.2.3 Religious Congregations and Ministerial Public Juridic Persons conducting Catholic schools

7. Offices

The Commission supervises the work of the following offices of its Secretariat in accordance with the mandates detailed in Schedule 2.

7.3 National Catholic Education Commission Secretariat

8. Secretariat

The National Catholic Education Commission Secretariat assists the Commission in fulfilling its tasks.

Schedule I: Mandate for Advisory Bodies

Name:	National Catholic Education Commission
Area(s) of Responsibility:	The Commission promotes the life and mission of the Catholic Church in Australia in the areas of Catholic school primary and secondary education; religious education of the school-aged people who are not attending Catholic schools; and Catholic tertiary education.
Number of Members:	The Commission will comprise sixteen (16) members, including one (1) independent chair, two (2) members of the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education, one (1) nominee of the Education Committee of the Association of Ministerial Public Juridic Persons, one (1) nominee of a State or Territory-based parent organisation, two (2) members of the community, eight (8) Chief Executives of State and Territory Catholic Education Commissions, <i>ex officio</i> , and the Executive Director, <i>ex officio</i> .
Appointment of Members:	The Bishops Commission for Catholic Education will propose, for the consideration and approval of the Conference when it meets in plenary session, the appointment of members in accord with the Statutes of the National Catholic Education Commission.
Appointment of Chairperson:	The Bishops Commission for Catholic Education will propose, for the consideration and approval of the Conference when it meets in plenary session, the appointment of a chairperson in accord with the Statutes of the National Catholic Education Commission.
Frequency and Place of Meetings:	The Commission will ordinarily meet six (6) times a year at a time and place of mutual convenience.
Administrative Support:	The National Catholic Education Commission Secretariat will provide administrative support to the Commission.

Schedule 2: Mandates for Offices

Name:	National Catholic Education Commission Secretariat
Area(s) of Responsibility:	The Secretariat coordinates the administrative services to the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education and the National Catholic Education Commission.
Appointment of the Executive Director:	The Conference will appoint the Executive Director on recommendation of the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education. The Commission will comply with the Conference policy on recruitment and selection and will employ the Executive Director on a standard employment contract in accord with Conference policy.
Staff:	The Secretariat will employ staff as required from time-to-time to assist and be accountable to the Executive Director in meeting the Mandate.
Accountability:	The Executive Director, who is also the Executive Secretary of the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education, is accountable to the Chair of the National Catholic Education Commission.