Dear Colleagues,

Catholic School Parents Australia

We are writing to advise of an historic development that will provide a distinct Catholic school parent voice at the national level.

Over the past two years, Catholic school parent bodies in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria have argued that a new national parent body is now required to work with the National Catholic Education Commission and the Catholic Education directorates across Australia to bring a distinct Catholic school parent perspective to future negotiations between the sector and the Federal government, and to the development of policy within Catholic education in Australia.

Encouraged by the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education, the SA Federation and our counterparts in Western Australia and Tasmania met with the proponents of the new body to discuss the rationale for its formation, its intended scope of operations and governance arrangements. Following deep discernment, the Federation Council agreed on a majority vote to join the new body as a founding member (August 2013).

The decision-making process, and the decision to join, has great significance for our Federation as we are a long standing affiliate of the Australian Parent Council (APC), the national federation of organisations representing parents of students attending both Catholic and Independents schools.

The APC was formed 51 years ago following the success of the parent led ‘Goulburn Closure’ (1962) which saw parents withdraw 2000 children from Catholic schools and present them for enrolment at government schools in protest at the total lack of funding support for children in non-government schools.

The SA Federation will continue to affiliate with the Australian Parents Council and work with its other members to shape APC’s future, just as we will work hard to support the emergence of Catholic School Parents Australia as a distinctive voice.

The new organisation will be launched in Sydney on 14th October and will hold its first Annual General Meeting on 15th October 2013.

We are delighted to advise here that the SA Federation’s nominees to CSPA will be Council member, Kylie Ind and our Executive Director Ann Bliss.

Other founding members are:

- Council of Catholic School Parents NSW (CCSP)
- Federation of Parents and Friends Association of Queensland
- Victorian Catholic Schools Parent Body
- Parents and Friends Federation of WA
- Tasmanian Catholic School Parents Council
- A new parent body being formed by the diocese of Canberra/Goulburn in the ACT.
The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities (SA) is committed to extending its strong and influential work at the national level through membership of CSPA and APC to advocate for our goals of choice, quality, equity and parent voice in education.

We take the opportunity in this context to also advise that Federation President Caz Bosch was re-elected President of the Australian Parents Council last month, Treasurer Paul Della was re-elected APC Treasurer and Ann Bliss was re-appointed as a member of the APC National Executive.

We thank you in advance for your support in disseminating this information to families and school staff.

Yours sincerely

Caz Bosch  Ann Bliss
President  Executive Director
September 2013