Mr Fox is also active in local parish life and has a strong practical faith commitment, Bishop O’Kelly said.

In his current role as Melbourne’s Catholic Education Office’s Director of Policy, Research and Communications, Mr Fox is a member of the preeminent cross-sectoral committee on school education established by Victoria’s State Government. Mr Fox also chairs the state’s Catholic Education Week Committee and acts as Executive Officer for the Catholic Education Committee of Victoria Ltd.

“We believe that Ross clearly has the skill set to lead the NCEC in detailing the new vision enunciated by the Bishops, and addressing its concomitant challenges,” Bishop O’Kelly said and on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference offered Mr Fox his congratulations on the appointment.

“We look forward to working with him and the new National Commission in the seminal work of the Church in school education.”


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**NAPLAN Testing**

The Australian Greens were successful in calling for a Senate inquiry into NAPLAN testing. Schools spokesperson Penny Wright said that an inquiry was needed to examine any unintended consequences of NAPLAN.

According to Senator Wright, "NAPLAN was not designed to be a be-all-and-end-all assessment of student performance."

"It was introduced so there could be proper data about student achievement and to be able to identify and address educational disadvantage."

"Instead, we have NAPLAN training books on best-seller lists, young children having private tutoring for the tests and some secondary schools requiring NAPLAN results in their admissions process."

"The tests are causing significant stress among teachers and students so we really need to think carefully about whether this is the best way to be going."

"This will be the sixth year of testing — it's time to get all the evidence in one place and make sure the tests are actually benefiting students, first and foremost."

Senator Wright also said the use of NAPLAN data to compare schools created an unhealthy level of competition and took the focus away from students.

Submissions to the Inquiry closed on 7 June and the report is due to be completed by 27 June 2013. APC lodged a submission.