

# Governance *update*

for Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Sandhurst



School Governance  
Working Party  
Diocese of Sandhurst

BULLETIN ONE

MONDAY 2 MARCH 2020

Welcome to the first of a series of Governance Bulletins that will be circulated to you from the School Governance Working Party throughout 2020. As you are aware, Bishop Shane Mackinlay established a working party in December last year to advise him on the most appropriate model of *'Incorporated School Governance'* to suit the unique needs and aspirations of the Diocese of Sandhurst.

## Progress to Date:

The Working Party has now conducted three formal meetings since it was commissioned. In this first phase of operations the focus has been primarily upon the investigation and discernment of the most appropriate new governance model for Catholic schools across the diocese. To this end the Working Party has:

- i. Developed a project plan and implementation timeline to guide the project;
- ii. Initiated a process that will identify the major *'Guiding Principles'* that should underpin *'Good Governance'* within the context of a Catholic community;
- iii. Researched nine different models of incorporation that have been implemented in other diocesan and Catholic education systems;
- iv. Initiated productive discussions with relevant agencies and advisers in the areas of industrial relations, legislative requirements and legal and canonical requirements which will remain an ongoing focus through Phases 2 and 3 of the process in the second half of this year.

## Listening Assemblies:

The first of the Listening Assembly consultations for priests, principals and school board representatives will be held on March 17 and 18 in Shepparton. These will focus on five key objectives:

- i. Understanding the rationale as to **why** incorporation is occurring in our schools and how, if done well, it can be of great strategic benefit to our children's education into the future;
- ii. Recognising valuable dimensions of our current governance processes at the local parish level that should be captured and inform future models of governance;
- iii. Discerning the key *'Guiding Principles'* with respect to governance structures and processes that should underpin the decision-making process for a new model of Governance;
- iv. Identifying some of the major priorities and challenges facing Catholic education in the diocese in the coming decade and beyond; and
- v. Briefing participants on the further stages of the Working Party's project plan.

## Where to Next:

Following the first round of Listening Assemblies a further Bulletin will be circulated providing a summary of the key understandings that have arisen from this consultation. The Working Party will subsequently begin investigating and developing potential incorporation models for the diocese, with a view to proposing a possible incorporated model that will be critiqued by our key stakeholders at the second series of Listening Assemblies on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May.

As the consultation process unfolds any comments or questions you wish to direct to the Working Party can be made by utilising the dedicated School Governance Working Party email address: [sgwp@ceosand.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sgwp@ceosand.catholic.edu.au)