



**Diocesan Schools Board
Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes
Guiding Principles and Terms of Reference
March 2013**

Guiding Principles

The Diocesan Schools Board of the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes is a Consultative board to the Bishop formulating policy and advising him in relation to all matters pertaining to diocesan schools.

In Particular:

- 1) *The board works in the best interests of Catholic schools in the diocese as a whole.*
- 2) *The board works according to the principles of subsidiarity and co-responsibility, encouraging and supporting local decision making authorities.*
- 3) *The board seeks to arrive at consensus.*
- 4) *The board oversees the financial management of the Catholic Education Office.*

The board usually meets four times per year.

Board members are appointed by the Bishop. Membership includes:

- Chairman and Deputy-Chairman appointed by the Bishop,
- persons with particular expertise drawn from clergy, religious and laity who have an understanding of all or some of :
 - the religious dimension of Catholic education
 - contemporary education
 - the regional nature of the diocese
 - remote and rural societies
 - financial, industrial and/or legal contexts.
- the Director of Schools (ex-officio)
- other members of the Catholic Education Office Leadership Team as determined by the Bishop (*eg Administrators of Religious Education, Education Services and Finance and Planning*) (ex-officio)

The normal term of appointment is three years.

The board is serviced by the Catholic Education Office.

Terms of Reference

Under the authority of the Bishop, the Diocesan Schools' Board is concerned with all aspects of system schools in the diocese.

The prime objectives of the Diocesan Schools' Board are:

- a) To promote and support Catholic education as part of the mission of the Church.
- b) To promote and support a high quality Catholic education.
- c) To respond to the educational needs of the diocese and to endorse policies to meet these needs.
- d) To promote and support the ongoing formation of professional and Catholic commitment for all those involved in Catholic education.
- e) To promote and assist in the development of parish and diocesan groups who support the parish and diocese in educational matters.
- f) To promote a positive image of Catholic education in the community.
- g) To oversee the financial management of the diocesan school system.

Current membership: 2013

Bishop Michael Kennedy (Chair, Apostolic Administrator)

Fr Don Gunn (Deputy Chair, Parish Priest St Joseph's Parish Condobolin)

Fr Paul Clark (Parish Priest, St Laurence O'Toole's Parish Forbes)

Mr Vince Connor (Director of Schools)

Ms Therese Newell (Administrator of Religious Education Services)

Mrs Mary-Ellen Dempsey (Administrator of Education Services)

Mr Malcolm Goodwin (Administrator of Financial and Planning Services)

Mrs Trish Cleal (Principal's representative, Principal of St Patrick's Parish School Trundle)

Mrs Kathy Sweeney (Teacher's representative, St Laurence's Parish School, Forbes)