

# Media Release

July 29 2019



## Catholic schools in regional SA to move Year 7

Catholic Education South Australia has confirmed their decision to move Year 7 to secondary schools will be extended to rural and regional schools.

Families with students in Catholic regional schools were notified last week that schools will transition Year 7s to secondary settings by 2022. Metropolitan Catholic schools have already made the move and Department for Education schools will also do so by 2022.

The transition is part of a commitment made by Catholic Education in 2015 and follows similar decisions in every other State and Territory. It means that Year 6 will become the final year of primary schooling and Year 7 will become the first year of secondary schooling.

The South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools (SACCS) has determined that primary schools in Millicent, Penola, Gladstone and Jamestown will provide R-6 education from 2022. Students will be supported to transition to their regional R-12 Catholic school or other chosen school.

“For other regional Catholic schools, we are currently undertaking a Regional Schools Pathways Project to consider a range of potential options to strengthen, where possible, Catholic education pathways for students beyond Year 6 from 2022, particularly where there are no nearby secondary Catholic schools,” explains Nichii Mardon, co-ordinator of the project and Director of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Port Pirie.

This includes the following Catholic Schools:

- St Joseph’s School, Peterborough
- St Mary MacKillop School, Wallaroo
- St Joseph’s School, Clare
- St Columba’s Memorial School, Yorketown
- St Joseph’s School, Murray Bridge
- Riverland region, including St Joseph’s School, Barmera, Our Lady of the River School, Berri, St Joseph’s School, Renmark and St Albert’s School, Loxton.

Initiatives being considered include:

- Reception to Year 9
- Reception to Year 12
- Middle Years education
- Supported transition to boarding
- Subsidised bus service.

“Not every regional Catholic primary school in South Australia will be able to extend to a secondary Catholic education option, and where this is not feasible, 2021 will be the last year in which Year 7 will be offered.”

The project team is seeking feedback through consultation via a survey to families currently attending Catholic schools and the wider regional community to assist in developing recommendations.

“We would particularly welcome feedback from families with pre-school age children who are yet to make a schooling choice.”

You can have your say about what you would like to see offered by Catholic Education in your region at [www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/yoursay](http://www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/yoursay). The survey is open until Wednesday August 7.

Ms Mardon said school communities would be advised later this year whether there was a possibility that their local school could be extended to include middle or senior years Catholic education - or whether it would provide Reception to Year 6 education from 2022 in line with all South Australian schools.

Parents who want to learn more about the benefits that have come from the Year 7 transition are encouraged to visit the Catholic Education South Australia website [www.cesa.catholic.edu.au](http://www.cesa.catholic.edu.au).

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