

## Media Release

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# Catholic Education SA strengthens support for students with disability

Catholic Education SA announced this week it will conduct a *Students with Disability Review* to identify how Catholic schools across South Australia can strengthen the inclusion, learning and wellbeing of students with disability.

The Review, endorsed by the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools, will examine policies, programs and support arrangements for students with disability.

“Catholic Education South Australia is committed to a culture where every student belongs, is valued and is included. We have a longstanding commitment to the learning and wellbeing of students with disability, but we wish to always improve in how we achieve our mission,” said Professor Denis Ralph Commission Chair.

“We want to listen to the lived experience of students with disability, their families, and members of the community.”

The perspectives of students with disability will be gathered through student interviews with the permission of parents. The consultation will also seek input from leaders and staff across Catholic schools and from external agencies responsible for disability services.

The Students with Disability Review will use the Australian Government’s Disability Standards for Education as its reference point. The five standards relate to enrolment, participation, learning, support services, and harassment.

The Review will analyse the relationship between what Catholic education’s policies say should be happening and what students are experiencing.

The Review’s purpose and process are posted on the Students with Disability Review section of Catholic Education’s website at [www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/SWDRReview](http://www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/SWDRReview)

The website includes a discussion paper that introduces the Students with Disability Review and links to the surveys.

The Commission has appointed Dr Paul Kilvert as the independent Review Lead. Dr Kilvert is the former Chief Executive of the SACE Board and led the implementation of reforms to the South Australian Certificate of Education, including the introduction of modified subjects for students with disability.

The Review is engaging the services of Geraldine Gray, a Disability specialist and advocate from NSW, to bring external expertise.

The Disability Standards for Education were first introduced in 2005 and reviewed in 2010 and 2015.

The survey is open until 3rd August 2020.

**Media contact:**

**Shannon Short**

Catholic Education SA

0438 516 523