

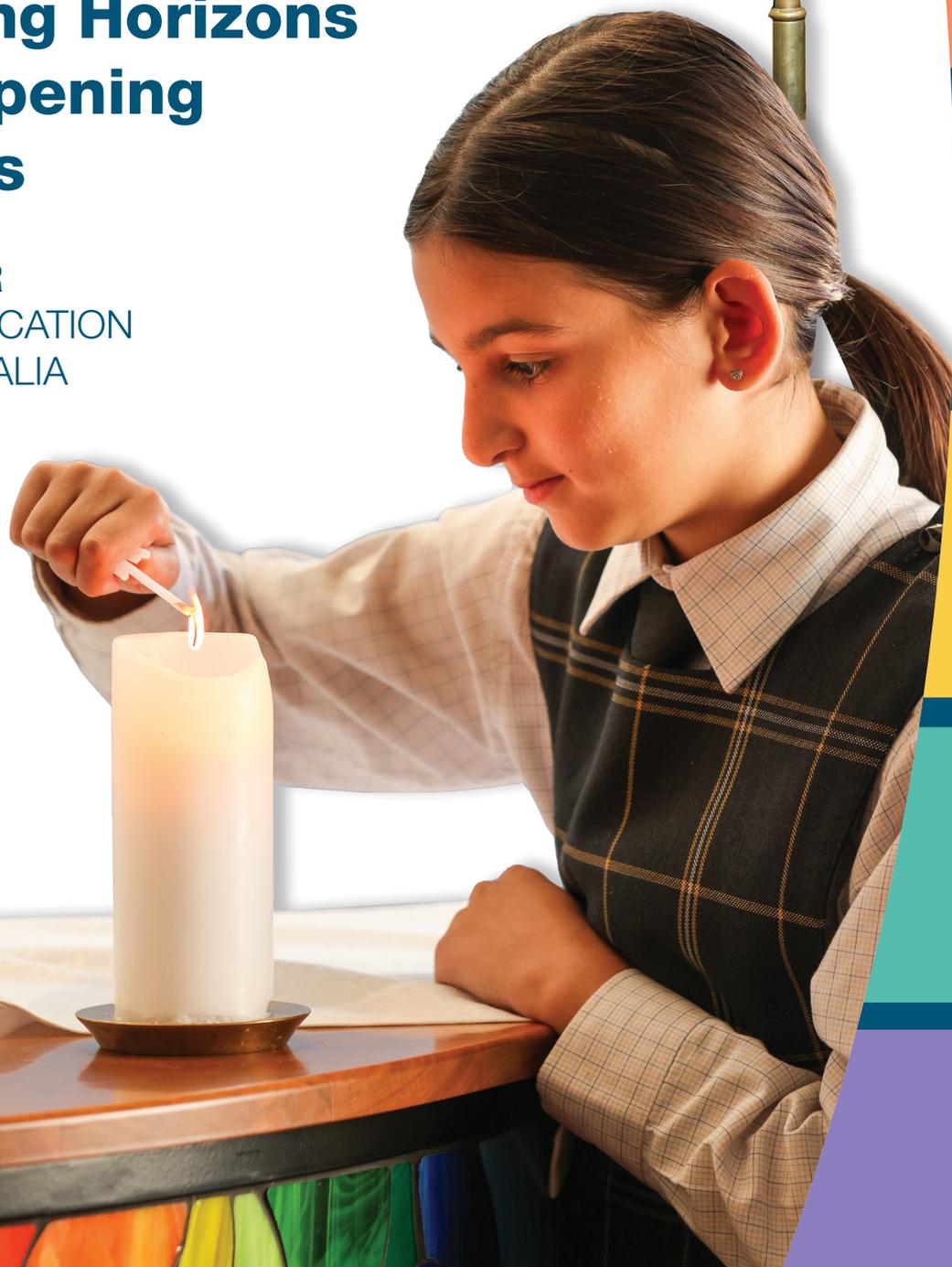


# Towards 2027:

## Expanding Horizons and Deepening Practices

STRATEGY FOR  
CATHOLIC EDUCATION  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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# Foreward

In 2015, the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools (SACCS) launched *The Strategy for Leading Catholic Education to New Levels of Excellence*. Since this time, the Strategy has guided the work of the Commission, Catholic schools, centres, and offices in a range of ways. These have included the pursuit of excellence for children and young people, the implementation of coordinated and systemic approaches to staff formation and professional development, and the achievement of significant milestones, such as the transition of Year 7 into secondary schools and the development of new schools and campus structures.

Notwithstanding this progress, new priorities are emerging through significant movements in the Catholic Church, such as the Plenary Council in Australia and the recently commenced worldwide “Synod on Synodality”, and the call for greater emphasis nationally by the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) and all states and territories on faith formation and spirituality, the accessibility of Catholic schools, and academic excellence.

In so doing, SACCS has undertaken extensive consultation with Governors and Trustees of Catholic schools, Priests and Deacons, School / College Boards, families, school and system leaders, staff, and students to gather insights and formulate a way forward that will ensure that Catholic education continues to excel in every way into the future.

As we enter this next phase of Catholic education in South Australia, the Commission is excited to introduce *Towards 2027: Expanding Horizons and Deepening Practices - Strategy for Catholic Education South Australia*.

This new Strategy seeks to help shape thriving people, capable learners and leaders for the world God desires:

- in Catholic schools, centres and offices whose vision, culture, rituals, policies, practices, and experiences are inspired by the person and message of Jesus
- within a state and national system of Catholic schools, centres and offices committed to educational excellence, enlivened faith formation, accessibility and growth
- for the purposes of contributing to a more socially just, equitable and hope filled future within communities and society.

It is truly a bold Strategy, inspired by the life and mission of Jesus, and with the learning, formation and achievement of children and young people at its heart.

To bring the Strategy to life, and inspired by the vision, mission, and values of Catholic education in South Australia, SACCS has endorsed seven Commitments to shape and drive its decision making and the work of Catholic schools, centres and offices during the period 2022 to 2026. The seven Commitments are outlined in this brochure, as is the series of Outcomes that the Commission will be working to achieve within each Commitment. Finally, to consistently “read the signs of the times”, this brochure also outlines the regular review process to be undertaken by the Commission, including the development of a Corporate Plan and Annual Plan cycle, to ensure that we are appropriately agile and responsive.

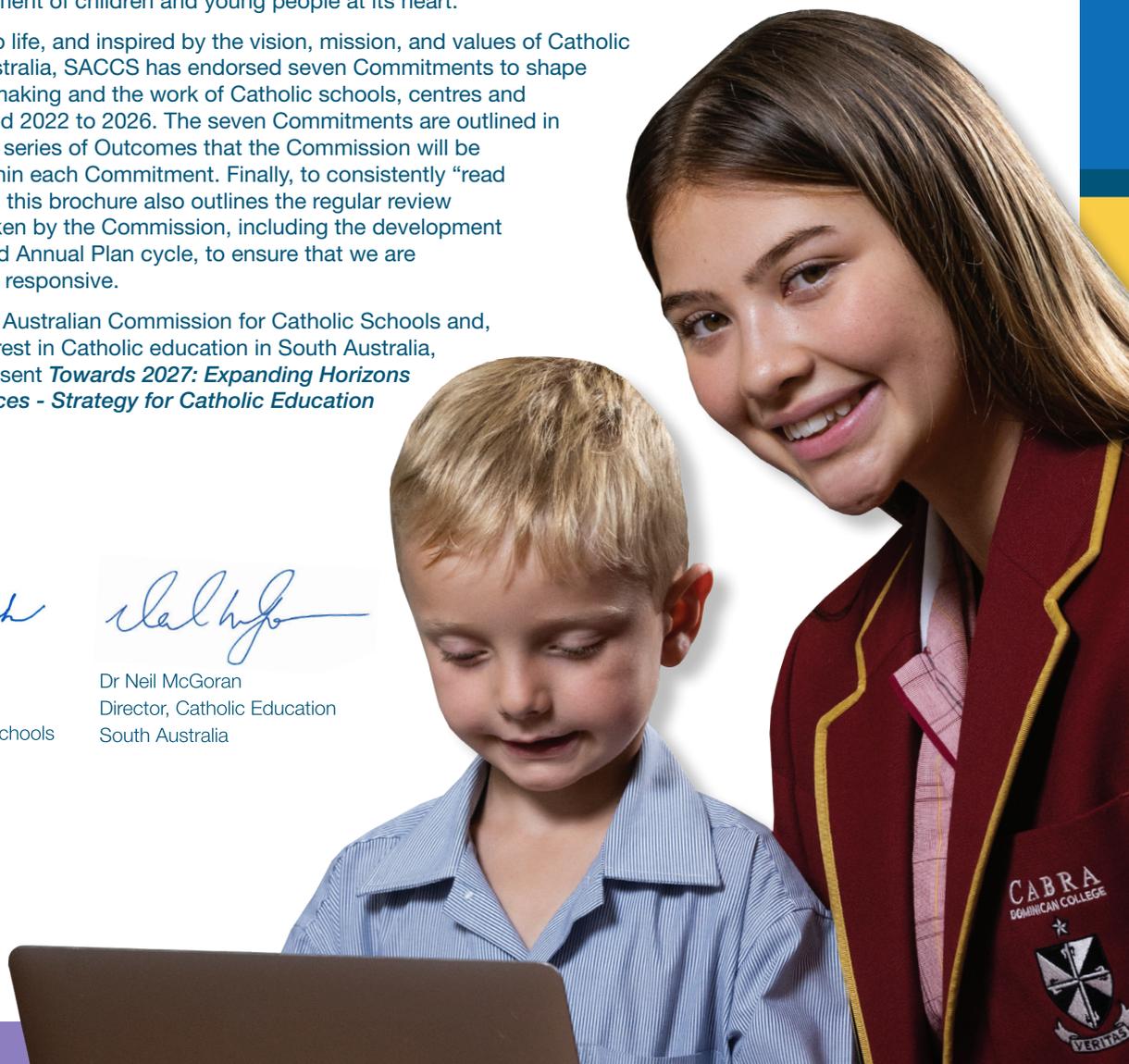
On behalf of the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools and, indeed, all with an interest in Catholic education in South Australia, it is our pleasure to present *Towards 2027: Expanding Horizons and Deepening Practices - Strategy for Catholic Education South Australia*.



Professor Denis W. Ralph  
Chair, South Australian  
Commission for Catholic Schools



Dr Neil McGoran  
Director, Catholic Education  
South Australia



# Mission

Animated by our Catholic faith and in partnership with families, our schools are communities which create opportunities for encountering life to the full – in all its personal, religious, political, ecological and cultural richness.

# Vision

We create an educational environment which matters to students and their families and which resonates culturally and deeply for them. In each learning area, across the whole life of the school, and in partnership with families, each of us discovers in the Spirit, the love of God which is revealed in Jesus Christ, proclaimed by the Church, presented in the scriptures, celebrated in the sacraments and lived by all people of good will.

# Values

We value:

- openness to God's Spirit at work in our midst and living in Catholic faith
- respect for the dignity of each person
- commitment to processes of learning that are formative, challenging, engaging, life-long and life-wide
- inclusivity of those at the edges
- sensitivity, justice and compassion
- the interconnectedness of all creation.

# Purpose

To help shape thriving people, capable learners and leaders for the world God desires:

- in Catholic schools, centres and offices whose vision, culture, rituals, policies, practices, and experiences are inspired by the person and message of Jesus
- within a state and national system of Catholic schools, centres and offices committed to educational excellence, enlivened faith formation, accessibility and growth
- for the purposes of contributing to a more socially just, equitable and hope filled future within communities and society.



# Commitments

# Outcomes

## Catholic Identity and Mission

Ensuring that the identity and mission of Catholic Education is centred in the person and message of Jesus, experienced within a culture of dialogue and includes quality Religious Education, meaningful and authentic prayer, liturgy and formative experiences.

- Students, staff and leaders are formed so they can participate with faith, hope and love in the mission of God in their context.
- Students have strong religious self-awareness, capability development and understanding of the Catholic Tradition.
- Excellent religious leadership is present in schools, centres and offices so all leaders can discern and strengthen the identity and mission of Catholic Education, in partnership with families and parishes.
- Catholic Education South Australia is known for its authentic and contemporary expression of Catholic Identity and Mission, including a focus on ecological conversion and action.

## Students

Fulfilling our promise that children and young people will be nurtured as thriving people, capable learners and leaders for the world God desires.

- Students are using Key Capabilities Continua to routinely reflect on and articulate growth as a person, learner and leader.
- Students have agency in their learning and can cite evidence of growth as a person, learner and leader.
- The dignity and rights of children and young people are maintained in all matters pertaining to safeguarding.

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Increasing the accessibility of, and experiences of diversity, equity and inclusion in our schools and centres inspired by Catholic teaching and tradition.

- Schools, centres and offices work collaboratively to be welcoming and responsive to the individual needs of children and young people through recognising their abilities and overcoming barriers to their education.
- School enrolment profiles demonstrate equity and accessibility reflective of their communities.

## Learning and Teaching

Pursuing excellence in learning, teaching and student outcomes across all Catholic schools and centres in South Australia.

- Schools and centres demonstrate high quality curriculum, pedagogy, assessment and reporting practices.
- Students experience and engage in learning that is responsive to their individual needs.
- Students achieve excellent learning outcomes.

## People, Leadership and Culture

Enhancing a culture of professional growth in Catholic schools, centres and offices that attracts, sustains and values people, their leadership and workforce excellence.

- Employees excel with respect to relevant industry standards.
- High employee engagement, agency, satisfaction and effectiveness is established across all workplaces in Catholic Education South Australia.
- Workforce sustainability is optimised and fulfils system human resource requirements.
- All workplace cultures enable people to thrive.

## Financial Stewardship and Improvement

Investing effectively in infrastructure, resourcing and capital development, and facilitating a system wide plan aimed at improving student outcomes and system growth.

- System growth per annum is in excess of population growth, and consistent with our mission and purpose.
- Sustainable, high quality infrastructure and facilities are ensured for all students, schools and centres.
- Financial stability and viability are ensured across all schools, centres and the system.

## Participation in Mission and Purpose

Ensuring that Catholic schools, centres, and offices in South Australia are committed to educational excellence, enlivened faith formation, accessibility and growth.

- Schools, centres and offices understand and work within a corporate governance framework that is consistent with Canon Law, relevant legislation and system obligations to fulfil our mission and purpose.
- Our system demonstrates high quality practices relative to stakeholder engagement, political liaison and advocacy, strategic project delivery and all professional services.

# Strategic Planning

While the extensive consultation and engagement process elicited many insights and a way forward for Catholic education, SACCS is aware that “reading the signs of the times” means staying alert to new developments, changes in policy, people’s experiences, and the myriad of possibilities that regularly present in education.

To facilitate this process and to bring to life *Towards 2027: Expanding Horizons and Deepening Practices*, the Commission has:

- approved the Corporate Plan for 2022 to 2026 which captures specific outcomes and strategies for each Commitment over the 5 year period
- endorsed the 2022 Annual Plan which maps out in appropriate detail the specific work and actions of the Commission, schools, centres and offices in 2022
- committed to continuing the ongoing processes of the strategic planning cycle.

The Commission will receive quarterly strategy updates on progress and achievements relative to the Annual Plan. There will also be a regular review of the Corporate Plan which will inform the development of the Annual Plan for the following year.

The regular review will include any refinements that might emanate from new insights or contextual changes; from lessons learnt; or from ongoing dialogue with those who have an interest in Catholic education. This work will be coordinated by the Catholic Education Office (refer to figure 1: Strategic Planning Cycle).

The Corporate Plan and each Annual Plan will be made available to Catholic schools, centres and offices to enable coordination and alignment across all facets of Catholic education in South Australia.



figure 1 Strategic Planning Cycle





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HEARTS  
AND  
MINDS**

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