**Our History**

The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities (SA) Inc. was formed in 1967 by a group of parents committed to address the fact that South Australia was the only state where government grants were not provided for children attending non-government schools.

At this, the 48th Annual General Meeting of the Federation, we acknowledge the strength, wisdom, vision and commitment of those parents. We also acknowledge the work and influence of all those who have volunteered their time, gifts and talents to continue the work of the Federation in the last 48 years.

Let us not forget our history and the work of our founding members but be inspired by it to continue the work of the Federation by parents for parents, children, families and schools.

“If you don’t know where you’ve come from, you can’t possibly know where you’re going”. *John Schumann*

**Our Future**

The future of the Federation as the peak body for Catholic school parent communities in SA Catholic schools are parents in our school communities today.

Membership on the Council of the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities provides the opportunity to play a significant role in the future of the Federation in South Australia.

Be a part of our future – nominate now!

**Our Values**

Choice, Quality, Equity, Voice

**Our Vision**

To be an independent, influential voice committed to achieving quality and equity in educational opportunities and outcomes for students in Catholic schools.

**Our Mission**

We exert influence in pursuit of policy outcomes, develop and share resources and build the capacity of parents to be partners in the education of their children.
2014-2015 Federation Council

Executive

President: Sarah Wood
Vice President: Jlse Sanderson
Vice President: Simon Abbot
Treasurer: Paul Della
Immediate Past President: Caz Bosch

Members

Shefia Nemer-Khoury
Anna Dillon
Mary Avina
Dan Galbraith
Shaan Gilson (resigned August)
Rebecca Smith
Kylie Ind
Monique Russell
Uby Faddoul (casual)

2014 Federation Office Staff

Executive Director: Ann Bliss
Parent Project Officer: Terri Judd
Finance Officer: Teresa Matkovic
Communications and Administrative Officer: Leanne De Young

Life Members

Mr Tom Ffrench (late)
Mrs Nicky Mullins
Dr Des Dineen
Mrs Jenny Damiani
Choice | Quality | Equity | Voice

These four extraordinarily powerful words underpinned every aspect of the work of the Federation in 2014.

In each of the four pillars of our work - our advocacy, our representation, our service delivery and our operational functions, the Federation was committed to work on behalf of parents to realise these four goals for children and their families.

This work was never stronger than in the lead up to the 2014 state election where we secured commitments from the major parties in relation to priorities such as funding, bus access and parent engagement in education.

Parents calling for choice, quality and equity in education

In 2014, we committed to strengthening our work in promoting and supporting strong family engagement in learning and schooling by identifying and enacting a new organisational model and structure to best deliver on this commitment.

The outcome of our organisational review in late 2013 was clarity in purpose and a sharper strategy.
The Building Capacity to Engage Families in Learning and Schooling program was designed to better meet the needs of our sector and school communities by aligning with CESA and national priorities within education. Working with key personnel within Catholic Education SA including Directors, Educational Advisers and Consultants, School Principals, educators, staff and parents, the program covered a range of strategies such as policy leadership, strategic collaboration, a consultancy service, provision of professional learning, parent leader formation and showcasing best practice models.

The Parent Pulse Project was created to build stronger connections with parents in our school communities – the parent communities we exist to serve. With the by-line: Be Connected. Be Informed. Be Heard the Parent Pulse Project encompassed strategies to improve communication, consultation and connection with our parent communities.

We commend this annual report to you as a snapshot of the Federation’s efforts in 2014 to support and ensure appropriate policy, funding, resources, leadership and engagement in schooling. It offers examples of our work in advocacy, representation and service delivery on behalf of all parents with children in Catholic schools in South Australia.

We dedicate this report, and the Federation’s 2014 successes, to our parents and school parent communities who work in partnership to provide positive encouragement and support to children in their learning, and practical support and resources to our Catholic schools.

We acknowledge and value your contributions through your support of classroom, school and sporting programs, your participation in learning reviews, information meetings and surveys, your membership of school boards, parent committees and support groups, and through your efforts to provide a home environment that supports your children’s learning and wellbeing.

We call on all parents within our school communities to connect with the work of your Federation. Check out our website. Join our data base. Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter. Participate in our regular online surveys.

**Be Connected. Be Informed. Be Heard.**
The Federation is an affiliate of the Australian Parents Council (APC) on behalf of all South Australian Catholic school parents. This ensures that a strong South Australian Catholic school parent voice is maintained in all representations to the Federal Government.

In 2014, the Federation again provided strong leadership APC’s governance including through Caz Bosch and Paul Della who were re-elected as President and Treasurer respectively at the August AGM, and Ann Bliss (up to August) and Jlse Sanderson (from September) on the APC National Executive.

Through the Federation’s affiliation with APC, parents in SA Catholic schools were represented in:

- Meetings with Federal Ministers and advisors, other parliamentarians and senior officials from the Department of Education and Training (DET) in Canberra
- The APC Annual Conference/AGM in Perth (August) and APC National Executive and;
- The Family School and Community Partnerships Bureau Governance Committee (a joint initiative of the Australian Parents Council and the Australian Council of State School Organisations).

As an affiliate, the Federation also actively contributed to consultations and submissions in relation to:

- Senate Select Committee reviews on School Funding and Budget Cuts
- Review of the Australian Curriculum
- Finalisation of the (funding) loadings for Students with Disabilities and English Language Proficiency
- Review of the (funding) Loading for Low Socio-Economic Status
- Review of the Low SES (Funding) Loading
- Minister’s Policy Roundtable on Students with Disability and Learning Disorders
- DET Policy Roundtable (Parent and Community Engagement)
- Review of Teacher Education in Australia and;
- Federal Pre-Budget Submissions.

Significant progress was made in the development of APC initiatives such as a nationally accredited Certificate IV in Parent, Family and Community Engagement which was registered by the Australian Skills Quality Authority in August 2014 and the Successful Learning in the Early Years parent education
program. APC is also continuing its partnership with Woodside to deliver the *Indigenous Parent Factor* program in Indigenous communities.

APC’s key internal working groups, with strong Federation representation, continued to meet in 2014 to support the work of the Executive Director and to inform and direct APC positions and representations on key education issues. These included:

- College of Executive Officers (Ann Bliss)
- Government Policy, Funding and Advocacy Task Group (Chaired by Caz Bosch)
- Parent Engagement and Partnership Task Group (Ann Bliss)
- Indigenous Parent Factor (IPF) Project Reference Group (Caz Bosch, Paul Della)
- Organisational Capacity Working Group (Paul Della)
- Rural & Remote Community of Interest and Knowledge (Convened by Caz Bosch).

The Federation subscribed to the APC Review, the well regarded quarterly publication of the Australian Parents Council, and provided complimentary copies to all school parent groups, school leaders and key stakeholders in education in South Australia.

**Parents Australia**

Parents Australia is a separately incorporated entity with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status established by APC to deliver programs to build parents’ confidence and capacity to engage in and support the learning experiences, general development and wellbeing of their children at home and school.

Parents Australia furthers APC’s commitment to provide practical, hands on support to parents from many different walks of life.

Its Board of Directors include Federation members Caz Bosch (Chair), Paul Della (Treasurer) and Ann Bliss (SA Nominee).

SA Federation delegates to the 2014 Annual Conference and AGM of the Australian Parents Council – Leanne De Young, Jlse Sanderson, Rebecca Smith, Ann Bliss, Shefia Nemer-Khoury and Caz Bosch. Absent: Paul Della)
Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA) completed its first full year of operation in 2014 following its launch in October 2013 to provide a distinct Catholic school parent voice at the national level.

The Federation’s nominees to the Council of CSPA were Federation council member, Kylie Ind and Executive Director, Ann Bliss.

CSPA Council met four times during the year in Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. The Annual General Meeting was held in Perth in November and at this meeting Tony O’Byrne we re-elected unopposed to the position of Independent Chair.

Ann Bliss was elected unopposed to the Executive of CSPA Council at its August meeting following the resignation of Deputy Chair Danielle Cronin on her appointment to the position of Deputy Director of the National Catholic Education Commission.

CSPA was actively engaged in the review of the Australian Curriculum, and the Ministerial review of teacher Education Programs preparing submissions and contributing to consultations with reviewers.

Throughout the year, members of Council executive met with Federal Education Minister, Christopher Pyne, Shadow Minister Kate Ellis, parliamentary secretary Scott Ryan, Assistant Minister Sussan Ley, the Federal Department of Education and Training Associate Secretary, Tony Cook and National Catholic Education Commission Executive Director, Ross Fox. These key working relationships are essential to progress the issues of relevance to parents with children in Australian Catholic schools.

Members of CSPA Council at its AGM (Perth, November 2014)
Tony O’Byrne (Ind. Chair), Carmel Nash (Qld), Tim Smith (ACT), Linda McNeill (NSW), John Beaton (Interim Chief Officer), Kylie Ind (SA) Brendan McManus (Tasmania), Bishop Sproston (Archdiocese of Perth), Daryl Seaton (ACT), Ann Bliss (SA), Joe Monterosso (WA), Tracey O’Neill (Victoria), Dennis Torpy (Victoria), Siobhan Allen (WA), Greg Boon (Tasmania), Karl McKenzie (Qld), Trevor Kellam (NSW).
Strategic Partnerships

In 2014, the Federation was represented on the Australian Parents Council (APC) National Executive, Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA) Council and Council Executive, the Ministerial Advisory Committee for Non-Government Schools, the three standing committees and various committees and working parties of the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools (SACCS) and Catholic Education South Australia (CESA) and a number of other key education forums and groups.

The Executive Director and President continued their tenures as Parent Representative on the National Catholic Education Commission (Ann Bliss) and Community Representative on the Teachers’ Registration Board of SA (Sarah Wood).

In 2014, the Federation’s representation on these forums resulted in the strategic contribution to the management, development, promotion, implementation and/or review of the following:

- Senate Select Committees on School Funding and Budget Cuts
- Review of the Australian Curriculum
- Ministerial Review of Teacher Education Programs
- Review of the Low SES loading
- National Family, School and Community Partnership Bureau
- National Symposium on Parent Engagement in Learning and Schooling
- APC’s programs: Certificate IV in Parent, Family and Community Engagement and Successful Learning in the Early Years
- State Election Strategy
- Review of State Committees and Boards
- SACE Board initiatives
- World Teachers Day celebrations
- Archdiocesan Framework for Sacramental Catechesis
- SACCS Review of Funding
- SACCS planning for the future provision for Catholic Education in SA
- Recruitment of Director of Catholic Education SA
- CESA Continuous Improvement Framework for Catholic Schools
- CESA’s Re-Imagining Childhood initiatives
- Leadership Development programs in Catholic Education SA
- Cyber safety initiatives
- Early Career Teacher induction and development programs
- Child Protection Policy and Curriculum
- Charter for Staff in Catholic Schools SA
- SACCS Policies:
  - Assessment and Reporting
  - Religious Leadership in a Catholic School

A list of all representations covered by the Federation in 2014 is attached at Appendix 1 page 28.
Political Advocacy

Exerting influence in pursuit of policy outcomes is central to the mission of the Federation and was a strong feature of our work in 2014 given it was a state election year in South Australia.

The Federation continued to be represented on the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools (SACCS) Political Strategy Group and contributed to the development of Catholic Education South Australia’s State Election strategy. This strategy identified 7 key election priorities for the sector – support for capital works, support for the development of Early Learning Centres, equitable funding for South Australian Year 7 students, Year 7 Infrastructure Grants to support specialist teaching at Year 7, Allied Health support, access to school buses in regional areas and a commitment to honour the 2014 – 2019 state/federal recurrent funding agreement.

Of these seven policy areas, the Federation prioritised the status of year 7 in South Australia, the provision of early learning in Catholic education and support for capital funding to the Catholic sector and also called for the Labor and Liberal parties to commit to a distinct policy area - Family Engagement in Schooling.

In the lead up to the election, the Federation met the Minister for Education and Child Development and with the Shadow Minister for Education to present the Federation’s four key policy priorities on behalf of parents who have chosen a Catholic education for their children.

Further to these meetings, we wrote to Minister Rankine and Shadow Minister Pisoni seeking formal party responses to the following questions in relation to these key priorities.

1. **Status of Year 7 in SA**: What will your party do to address the current inequity in funding for students in Year 7 in this state if elected to form government?

2. **Early Learning**: How will your party support the development of Early Years’ Services in the Catholic sector if elected to form government?

3. **Capital Funding**: What support for capital works will your party offer to Catholic schools if elected to form government?

4. **Family Engagement in Schooling**: How will your party support a state wide initiative to strengthen family engagement in schooling if elected to form government?

Each Member of Parliament was then contacted seeking their support to advocate on behalf of families with children in SA Catholic schools in their electorate as the parties determined their responses.

The Labor and Liberal parties responded to these questions with their respective commitments and these were compiled into a summary document and communicated to the families of nearly 50,000 children in our 103 schools in this state via their school communities.
On the re-election of the Labor State government, the Federation continued to work with Minister Rankine and her office to progress the four key policy interests for parents—family engagement in schooling, status of Year 7 in SA, early learning and capital funding.

In particular, we committed to work together to further the concept of a ‘Parents in Education Week’ including a ‘Parents in Education’ Summit.

The Federation was also actively involved in the review of the School Transport Policy which was instigated after the election in line with the government’s commitment to address access to school buses for some children in regional Catholic schools. Following consultation with regional families, the Federation prepared a submission to this review.
Service Delivery to Schools and Sector in 2014

In 2014, the Federation revised its model of service delivery to schools following the organisational review (comprehensive information about the organisational review can be found on page 12).

Services and resources to school parent groups and parent communities to build parent capacity to be engaged in learning and schooling continued but with a different focus.

Parent workshops such as Responding to Abuse and Neglect (RAN) training were no longer offered.

Ad hoc requests for support of parent groups were addressed and website resources were continuously improved to remain relevant to the needs of our schools’ formal parent bodies.

Parents in Education (PIE) Grants

The Federation was granted an increase in PIE Grant funding from the Minister of Education and Children’s Services. $25,000 was provided to distribute to schools within our sector to assist in running innovative projects designed to increase and encourage parental engagement in their children’s education.

30 school communities applied for PIE Grant funding in 2014 with the amount of funds requested totalling $34,175.

26 projects (supporting 28 school communities) were recommended for approval by the Minister to receive a proportion of the $25,000 available for distribution.

A list of successful grants is listed in Appendix 2 on page 30.

Parent Pulse

The three C’s - Communication, Connection and Consultation - were the key pillars of the Federation’s Parent Pulse project in 2014.

Coordinated by Communication and Administration Officer, Leanne De Young, this project was designed to build a stronger profile with members of our affiliated parent communities and included co-ordination of the following strategies:

- Federation’s quarterly newsletter ‘Federation e-News’
- Facebook posts (‘Likes’ increased by 63% in 2014)
- Twitter updates
- Quarterly mail out to Chairpersons of School Boards
- Fortnightly newsletter snippets
- Circulars on CESA online
- Messages to Families
- Online surveys
- Pro-active visits to school communities to promote ways parents can connect to our work.
Building Capacity to Engage Families in Learning and Schooling

Trialling a new model of service delivery, the Executive Director provided a customised consultancy service for five school communities to address their goal to strengthen family engagement in their schools. The Executive Director worked closely with the leadership teams to develop a planned approach to working with the whole school community. Action Teams were set up with representation from leadership, staff, parents, community and students to review current practice, identify gaps and develop strategies for strengthening family engagement. Separate sessions for staff were provided. This model acknowledges the importance of principal led, whole of school approaches to systematically embed sustainable practices for engaging parents and families in learning and the life of the school.

The Executive Director continued the work of promoting models of family school partnerships in schools via presentations to school leaders and emerging leaders, parent groups, school governing bodies, early career teachers and pre-service teachers, newsletter articles via Federation e-News, workshops and support meetings to assist schools to increase and encourage parent participation and engagement in their children’s education.

David Price session
In November, the Federation hosted a session with world acclaimed education futurist David Price OBE titled Re-imagining an education worth having: What kind of school, what kind of educator and what kind of me for what image of the child?

During the keynote presentation and interactive workshop, David challenged us to re-think the way we interact, teach, and use social, formal and informal learning to engage children and young people in an education worth having. Participants explored the opportunities our ‘connected’ and ‘open’ world offers to best prepare children and young people for a future we cannot predict.

Acknowledgements
The Federation acknowledges with thanks the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools (SACCS), the Association of Principals of Catholic Secondary Schools (APCSS) and the South Australian Catholic Primary Principals Association (SACPPA) for funding to enable the Parent Engagement and Partnerships Program and the Minister for Education and Children’s Services for the provision of PIE Grant funding to support local school initiatives.

Organisational review
In late 2013, the Federation Council commissioned an independent review of its work in strategically promoting parent and family engagement in learning and schooling. The key question for the review was:

What model of service delivery would enable the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities to best support the work of the Catholic Education Offices and SA Catholic schools to systematically embed sustainable practices and processes to strengthen parent and family and engagement in learning and schooling?
Federation Council engaged an independent consultant, Ms Karen Jennings, to undertake a series of interviews with key sector, school and Federation stakeholders to identify sector and school needs in addressing this key domain of school improvement.

The report and associated recommendations were presented to Federation Council in early 2014. This supported its work in determining the best organisational model and associated office structure to ensure a dynamic, contemporary and viable organisation and sharpen its work in the political sphere through effective engagement; strengthen family engagement in learning and schooling across all levels of influence and impact through policy leadership, stakeholder liaison, media engagement, shaping, promoting and co-developing effective models of practice in schools and building awareness, understanding and capacity and employ more contemporary strategies to raise the profile of the Federation in all SA Catholic school parent communities and in the broader community.

The new office structure (below) resulted in significant staffing changes and came in effect from July.

Farewell

In May, we farewelled Parent Project Officer, Terri Judd after nine years of committed service to the Federation.

Terri managed the Federation’s Parent Engagement and Partnership program and in this role was the face of the Federation for P&F/parent groups in our schools.

Terri was instrumental in ensuring that our Parent Conference would become an annual event on the Federation’s calendar having tirelessly advocated for, and coordinated the planning of, our inaugural conference in 2013.

Terri was honoured at a morning tea held with CEO staff in July.
Second Annual Parent Conference

The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities hosted its second Annual Conference at the Monastery Function Centre on Saturday, 24th May 2014.

The Conference titled Parent Engagement in Action was an opportunity for parents, school leaders and educators in SA Catholic schools to come together in partnership to:

- gain an insight into building home-school relationships in a multicultural community
- explore building community from the ‘inside out’ and discover the power of community to strengthen parent and family engagement in student learning
- identify pedagogical changes in classroom learning and hear how schools are ‘leading, teaching and learning with digital technologies’ in the 21st century classroom
- identify how a school community engages parents via Teacher/Student led parent technology forums
- explore case studies of successful parent engagement models implemented in Secondary, Primary and Early Years settings
- discuss and review current practice in parent engagement in school communities and
- meet and network with other Catholic school parent and school leaders.

The conference was attended by fifty five participants comprising parent leaders, principals, teachers, Federation Council members and staff. This represented a 22% increase in attendance from 2013.

Metropolitan and regional school communities were represented from Roxby Downs in the north, St Renmark in the east, Mount Gambier in the south, Whyalla in the west and all points in between!

During the weeks after the Conference a number of messages from Conference delegates were received offering positive feedback about the Conference including:

“There was so much sharing – and not just information, but stories and case studies that were truly inspiring, thought provoking and driving us to seek action and change”
Presenters were awarded Principal Marie Murphy, community engagement consultant, Peter Kenyon, awarded educator, Kim Martin and educational consultant Anne DiNicolo. Peter Kenyon hosted a lively and, at times provocative Q&A with panel members including Joy Bedford, principal of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, Maria Sauchelli, parent leader from St Joseph’s School, Hectorville, Tania Fragnito, Manager of Nazareth Early Childhood Centre and Vanessa Grave, Marketing and Communications Manager, St Francis de Sales College, Mt Barker.

**Tom Ffrench Family-School Partnership Awards**

These annual awards were announced during the Conference. The awards celebrate initiatives in our schools designed to strengthen the essential partnership between home and school.

Successful Award recipients were:

**St Columba’s Memorial School, Yorketown** for its program *Sustainability for the Future*

**St Joseph’s School, Hectorville** for its commitment to *Increasing Parent Engagement in Learning and Decision Making*

**St Francis de Sales College, Mt Barker** for its initiative *Strengthening Community – Family, Student and School Working Together*

**Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, Enfield** for its commitment to *Parent engagement in learning and the life of the College community*

*Congratulations to those school communities acknowledged in 2014 for their commitment to working in genuine partnership with families.*
## Our Strategic Intentions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choice</th>
<th>Quality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advocate for the right to choose a Catholic education</td>
<td>Advocate for the right of all students to quality educational opportunities and outcomes across all level of education from early childhood to senior secondary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote an understanding and appreciation of the contribution of Catholic education</td>
<td>Drive, promote and support family engagement and partnerships in education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Represent parent rights and perspectives</td>
<td>Develop and deliver innovative parent projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen and expand politically strategic relationships</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equity</th>
<th>Voice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advocate for a fair and equitable distribution of government recurrent and capital funding for schooling</td>
<td>Build a reputation as a peak body in education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocate for appropriate basic funding entitlements for all Catholic school students from the federal and state governments</td>
<td>Contribute to the shaping of educational policy and practice with strategic and skilled representation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocate for parity in funding for students with disability, and special educational needs across all education sectors</td>
<td>Build networks with like bodies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocate for educational policy and practice that addresses educational disadvantage for Indigenous students, students from disadvantaged backgrounds and rural and remote communities.</td>
<td>Build and sustain strategic partnerships with key stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>--------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Number of SA Catholic school parent communities affiliated with the Federation in 2014 (out of 103 schools) – highest affiliation rate in the Federation’s history!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>~49k</td>
<td>Number of children and young people in South Australian Catholic schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Number of Tom Ffrench Family School Partnership Awards presented at the Annual Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Number of members of the Federation Council as of 31.12.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>Number of years since the formation of the Federation as the peak body for South Australian Catholic school parents in 1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Number of key national, state and Catholic Education SA committees with Federation representation bringing the unique Catholic school parent perceptive to their work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Number of the domain in Catholic Education SA’s Continuous Improvement Framework for Catholic Schools dedicated to Strong Home, School and Community Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25k</td>
<td>Provided by the SA State government in Parents in Education (PIE) grant funding for SA Catholic school communities – with a 3 year agreement secured in 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Number of Catholic schools benefitting from 14/15 PIE grant funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The number of editions of Federation e-News published</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Years of service Vice President Simon Abbot has dedicated to the Federation Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/5</td>
<td>Date of our second Annual Conference titled Parent Engagement in Action!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Number of South Australian Catholic schools represented at the Annual Conference</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
$3.30 The amount per student used to calculate each SA Catholic school parent community’s annual affiliation fee to the Federation

1.9 Total full time equivalent (FTE) of the three positions in the Federation office – punching above our weight!

52 Number of young people who, by completing an online survey of Year 12 students, helped us developed our Family support during Year 12: What helps and why does it matter?

15 Number of ‘tips for parents’ in our resource: We’re Engaged! Some basic tips to support your child’s learning.

63% Increase in the number of ‘likes’ on the Federation Facebook page in 12 months

4 The number of core values that underpin the work of the Federation – Choice, Voice, Equity and Quality

Immeasurable

The dollar value of the hours volunteered by families in SA Catholic school communities and....

Endless

The number of hours of invaluable at-home family support provided to children and young people in SA Catholic schools.
THE FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PARENT COMMUNITIES

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014
THE FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PARENT COMMUNITIES

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT REPORT

Your board members submit the special purpose financial report of The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities for the year ended 31 December 2014.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the association during the financial period were to promote the interests of parents of students in South Australian catholic schools via advocacy, representation, service and consultancy.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the period.

OPERATING RESULT

The profit from ordinary activities for the year amounted to $7,474.94 (2013 $ 14,535.15).

During the financial year no officer of the Association, nor firm of which an officer is a member, nor a body corporate in which the officer has a substantial financial interest, has received or become entitled to receive a benefit as a result of a contract between an officer, firm or body corporate and the Association.

No officer of the Association has received directly or indirectly from the Association any payment or other benefit of pecuniary value, other than in the case of officers employed by the Association.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Board.

Chairperson

Treasurer

Dated this 15 day of May 2015.
THE FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENT COMMUNITIES

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

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<th>2014</th>
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<td>National Partnership Initiative</td>
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<td>Other Grants</td>
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<td>Reimbursements</td>
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<td>2013</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Accounting and Audit Fees</td>
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<td>2,300.00</td>
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<td>Annual General Meeting / Conferences</td>
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<td>APC Expenses</td>
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<td>Bad Debts Expense</td>
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Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary Activities       | 7,474.94     | 14,535.15   |
Retained Profits at the beginning of the financial year | 94,784.78   | 80,249.63   |
Transfer To Special Purpose Reserves           | (6,500.00)   | -            |
Retained Profits at the end of the financial year | 95,759.72   | 94,784.78   |

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2014</th>
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**MEMBERS RESERVES**

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<th>Note</th>
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<td><strong>TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS</strong></td>
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The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.
NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES
This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act 1985 (as amended). The members of the Board have determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs, which do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current values of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

Income Tax
Under section 23(g) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936, the association is exempt from income tax.

Plant and Equipment
Plant and Equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation. The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by the board to ensure that it does not exceed recoverable amount.

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated on a Diminishing Value basis over the useful lives of the assets in the association commencing from the time the assets is held ready for use.

Employee Entitlements
Employee Provisions represent liabilities for Annual and Long Service Leave owing to employees as at 31 December 2014. Employee entitlements have been measured at the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

Going Concern
The financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis as the board have been assured continued financial support from affiliation and grant funding organisations, and the board believe that such support will continue to be made available to the association.

Comparative Figures
When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.
# THE FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL
## PARENT COMMUNITIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

### NOTE 2: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

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### NOTE 3: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

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### NOTE 4: TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

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### NOTE 5: RESERVES

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The members of the Board have determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the members of the Board the financial report as set out on pages 2 to 5:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities as at 31 December 2014 and its performance for the year ended on that date.

2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the members of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the members of the board by:

Chairperson

Treasurer

Dated this 15th day of May 2015.
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENT
COMMUNITIES

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities, which comprises the assets and liabilities statement as at 31 December 2014, income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee

Committee’s Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Committee of The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act 1985 (as amended) and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Committee’s responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor’s Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association’s internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.
OPINION

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities as at 31 December 2014 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the Associations Incorporations Act 1985 (as amended)

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution
Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act 1985 (as amended). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

S P GRAETZ
Adelaide

MESSENGER ZERNER PTY LTD
Chartered Accountants

Dated 18 day of May 2015
Committee Membership 2014

The Council and Staff of the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities represented parents on the following committees and working parties:

National

National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) Parent Representative
Ann Bliss

Australian Parents Council (APC)

- **President** – Caz Bosch
- **Treasurer** – Paul Della
- **National Executive** – Caz Bosch, Ann Bliss (up to August 2014), Jlse Sanderson (from August 2014) and Paul Della
- **Parent Engagement and Partnership task group** – Ann Bliss
- **Students with Disability task group** – Rebecca Smith
- **College of Executive Officers** - Ann Bliss
- **Family School and Community Partnership Bureau Governance Committee** – Caz Bosch
- **Indigenous Parent Factor Project reference group** – Caz Bosch, and Paul Della

Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA)

- **SA Council members** – Ann Bliss and Kylie Ind
- **Council Executive** – Ann Bliss

State

Ministerial Advisory Committee on Non-Government Schools (disbanded end 2014)
Ann Bliss

**Teachers Registration Board** – Ann Bliss (up to March) and Sarah Wood (from April) (Non-representative)

**SACE Parent Reference group** – Ann Bliss

Archdiocesan

**Partnerships in Sacramental Catechesis working group** – Ann Bliss
Catholic Education South Australia

South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools (SACCS)

Standing Committees
- Religious Identity and Leadership – Rebecca Smith
- Finance and Infrastructure – Ann Bliss
- Education – Shefia Nemer-Khoury and Terri Judd (up to May 2014), Leanne De Young (from October 2014)

Advisory Committees
- Infrastructure, Planning and Development – Ann Bliss
- Special Education – Jlse Sanderson
- Rural Education – Kylie Ind
- Early Years Education and Care – Rebecca Smith
- Educational Programs - Ann Bliss
- Behaviour Education - Terri Judd (up to May 2014), Monique Russell (from July 2014)
- Enterprise Vocational Education – Sarah Wood
- Political Strategy Advisory Group – Ann Bliss

Working Parties
- Child Protection – Terri Judd (up to May 2014), Mary Avina (from July 2014)
- Child Protection Curriculum Development – Terri Judd (up to May 2014)
- Planning Task Group – Ann Bliss

Reference Groups
- CESA Continuous Improvement Framework – Ann Bliss

Inter Sector Committees

State, Catholic and Independent
- SA Canteen Network – Terri Judd (up to May 2014)
- LAP Association Management Committee – Terri Judd (up to May 2014)

Other
- National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) – Terri Judd (up to May 2014)
- Federation’s Political Strategy Sub-committee – Caz Bosch, Simon Abbott, Sarah Wood and Ann Bliss
## Parent Initiatives in Education (PIE) Grants

### Summary of School Projects: 2014/15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
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</table>
| St. Francis Xavier’s Regional Catholic School, Wynn Vale | **Parent Wellbeing Day - Whole day event with guest speakers**  
This project provides an opportunity for the parent community to be engaged in a full day workshop designed to support their children to achieve the best possible outcomes in their social and emotional wellbeing and thus their learning. Guest speakers will be Mark LeMessurier, Counsellor, Mentor, Educator and Parent Coach and Sylvia Habel, Director of Leading Potential, Education Management. |
| Stella Maris Parish School, Seacombe Gardens     | **‘Setting Up Kids for Success’ - A Whole School Approach**  
This project aims to launch the school’s Kidsmatter program. Mark LeMessurier has been engaged by the Project’s Steering Committee to launch the expo style gathering for the school community. |
| Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, Enfield    | **‘Working with your gifted and talented daughter’**  
This project aims to work with parents to explore ways they can be engaged in their daughter’s learning by developing an understanding of how parents perceive enrichment or extension in learning programs, creating common priorities and definitions of the ‘enrichment or G & T’ program and supporting parents in building their awareness of ways to encourage a ‘growth mindset’ in order to encourage deeper thinking. |
| Antonio Catholic School, Morphett Vale           | **Workshops that provide windows into the relationship between parenting and education**  
This project provides an opportunity for the parent community to be engaged in two workshops. The first will be facilitated by Mark LeMessurier, to support parents as they work to “Raise Beaut Kids” by exploring the connection between the boundaries and routines that they establish at home and the positive affect that these can have on their child’s learning outcomes.  
The second workshop will be facilitated by Sonia Ryan and will provide relevant and empowering information on how to use of the internet safely and appropriately for both social and educational purposes and provide parents with tools to have conversations with their children around safe internet usage. |
| St Martin de Porres School, Hallett Cove         | **Think U Know - SA Police Cyber Safety Presentation**  
Sturt Police Station will run a Cyber Safety Presentation developed for Parents of school-aged children. The school has been trial site for the System-wide use of Office 365 which has meant students are utilising technology on a daily basis in the classroom setting. Whilst the school has engaged in Cyber Safety behaviour in the classroom this presentation will provide a learning opportunity for the parent community to better understand how they can support their children to be safe while online in other environments. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Program Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| St Martins Catholic Primary School, Greenacres | **Magic Harvest Workshop and Around the World Cookbook - recipes supplied by families**  
The Magic Harvest program is a series of workshops for members of the parent community to sow, grow and harvest their own produce. The aim for this program is to include and encourage all members of the community to become more involved in the school and their children’s education. The school hopes that gardening will break down some of the barriers and create deeper networks, as well as learning the importance of sustainability, and an understanding of basic gardening skills.  
The second part of the program is to produce an ‘Around the World’ multicultural cookbook incorporating a Family Favourite or Traditional recipe from every family in the school. This initiative will be worked into the children’s curriculum and tie in with the schools Harmony Day and Cultural Day celebrations. |
| Rosary School, Prospect                         | **Practical Ideas to Build Children’s Emotional Resilience**  
During 2014 Rosary School conducted a parent survey on the mental health and well-being of students. The feedback identified that parents were very interested in further support in the area of assisting their children to build emotional resilience and practical ways to support their children with friendship and social issues that may occur. This project will focus on student mental health and wellbeing by inviting Mark LeMessurier to run a parent session on Practical Ideas to Build Children's Emotional Resilience. |
| St Barbara’s Parish School, Roxby Downs         | **To demonstrate and encourage ways parents can be actively involved in their children's education by providing good nutrition**  
Providing parents with information and suggestions for healthier lunch boxes and demonstrating the substantial relationship between nutrition and learning ability is the goal of this project. Using the community’s local ‘Eat a Rainbow’ educator this project aims to demonstrate ways good nutrition can help children stay alert in class, and minimise unwanted food related behaviours, resulting in benefits in both education and lifelong health. |
| Mercedes College, Springfield                   | **Parent seminar on supporting your child to have positive peer relationships**  
Research has shown that the first peak of bullying occurs at about Year 5. This coincides with children discovering the power of the peer group and creating their own social pecking order (Professor Donna Cross). By offering the school’s parents access to a high quality parenting seminar on children’s friendships, it aims to strengthen its work in this area. |
| Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Brompton       | **Positive Partnerships – Emotional & Social Wellbeing**  
This project will engage Mark LeMessurier to facilitate a parent workshop on a social skills enrichment program for primary students called What’s The Buzz? This project aims to support parents and caregivers in their child’s learning and promote positive partnerships between home and school to contribute to the positive emotional and social wellbeing of students. |
St Francis School, Lockleys

Working in partnership with parents to set up kids for success

This project relates to surveys that the school conducted in 2013 to gauge interest from parents about the type of workshops and sessions they’d like to attend. The parent partnerships program will continue to offer at least a workshop per term for the school’s parent community to continue the genuine connections established with parents in 2014.

St Joseph’s School, Tranmere

Parents as Role Models for building Positive Children

The project will provide parents with techniques and strategies to be positive role models for their children. Specifically a "recipe book" of resilience skills with constructive responses for dealing with everyday situations will be developed.

The "recipe book" will assist parents/guardians to navigate life's ups and downs with their child by utilising the "10 C's" of competence, confidence, connection, conversion, contribution, coping, control, communication, competition and common sense.

St David’s Parish School, Tea Tree Gully

Developing the community's understanding of Restorative Practices

In order to consolidate and strengthen the Positive Behaviours Policy at Saint David’s Parish school, the P&F together with the staff will offer its parent community workshops in Restorative Practices. The facilitated workshops will guide parents’ understandings of Restorative Practices and provide them with ideas to support their child/ren to build social and emotional competence and positive relationships.

St Pius X Catholic School, Windsor Gardens

Reading to Learn Parent Workshops

This project will provide an in-service to new parents in the school community about the Reading to Learn Program in the Early Years Classroom. This project aims to support parents at home to develop the reading and writing process.

St Brigid’s Catholic School, Evanston

This project provides an opportunity for the parent community to acquire additional strategies for managing the stress that comes with having school age children with learning or behavioural difficulties and provide an insight to issues that may affect the learning process in growing children.

St Joseph’s School, Ottoway

CEP- Community Education Program

This project aims to assist newly arrived Australians by offering classes that will assist them to develop life skills in an Australian context: - such as filling out forms; job applications; strategies on how to speak to their children’s teachers; understanding the money system and reading time tables for public transport. While the aim is to help families assimilate and make the transition into their new homes easier, the school also values people’s cultural heritage and plans to utilise their skills and talents by offering workshops to students in areas such a language, arts and cultural studies.
**Mt Carmel College, Rosewater**

**Parents in Partnership**

The College will use the Australian Government’s Strengthening Family and Community Engagement in Student Learning Resource and other relevant materials to:

- a) Review current practices for engaging families in College life.
- b) Identify and map key areas of possible parent and family engagement.
- c) Determine an operational structure and process for improving engagement.

Promotional material will be produced and a series of community teas/suppers will be held as part of this project. At the end of the year a certificate of involvement will be awarded to each parent who has engaged in some way with the College through this programme.

**St Bernadette’s Primary School, St Mary’s**

**Building Parent Engagement through the Arts**

St Bernadette’s seeks to engage the schools multicultural community by conducting an 8 week ‘Building parent engagement through the arts’ program. The program will cover various cultural arts activities designed to encourage the school’s families to explore and share the cultural diversity of its community.

**St Joseph’s School, Payneham**

**Building the Language of Resilience**

Workshops for parents will be held to assist them recognise and help their children become proactive in their own resilience and confidence building by providing the language that fosters assertive, protective behaviours.

**St Margaret Mary’s, Croydon Pk, St Patrick’s School, Mansfield Pk & Whitefriars School, Woodville Pk**

**Parent Education Seminars**

Connecting families from three Catholic schools in combined gatherings designed to engage parents and develop their skills by exploring topics such as: Building Rules that Stick; Get off that Computer; Clever Ways to Manage Kids and Being the Best Resilience Coach for your Kids.

**St John the Baptist School, Plympton**

**Parents in Conversation – Creating our new play space**

This project will enable parent involvement in developing the school’s new outdoor learning space.

Through a ‘Parents in Conversation Café’ – the school aims to both inform the community about the importance of Nature Play and allow sharing of ideas, plans and designs. From that event the school hopes to create an Outdoor Room Team who will continue the investigations into the development of the schools physical space and how it is used.

**Our Lady Of Grace School, Glengowrie**

**Kids Matter Implementation**

This project will provide information to families which will enable parents to support the mental health and wellbeing of their children by building positive respectful relationships.
**Marymount College, Hove**

**Parent Partnership to best support learning and wellbeing**

After gathering information from parents, the school’s Parent Representative group established a goal to provide relevant information to its parent community which is designed to improve children’s wellbeing and learning, and provide social and emotional support. This project will allow parent seminars which cover these topic areas to be conducted.

**St Columba’s Memorial School, Yorketown**

**St Columba’s Breakfast Club**

Breakfast is said to be the most important meal of the day and yet 8 - 12% of all school aged children skip it! A significant factor for student learning at St Columba’s is the extensive bus travel that students access in order to come to the school. Often by the time students arrive (up to 1 ½ hrs after they left home) they have burnt off their breakfast. This project will give families the chance to come into the school early and give them the opportunity and time to access a broad selection of breakfast ideas for their children and discuss nutrition and exercise requirements.

**St Joseph’s School, Hectorville**

**Engaging Parents in Learning in 2015**

For the past 18 months the school’s focus has been to strengthen family/school partnerships and the engagement of parents in their child’s learning. The school has established a Parent Engagement Group which meets 1 – 2 times each term with the Principal.

In 2015 the school will further develop this work by planning across the year the connecting points for families thus providing opportunities for families to connect into the school across the year and engage in their children’s learning.

**Cardijn College, Noarlunga**

**Real Ideas to Build Better Behaviours**

The College has recognised that there has been an increase in parents seeking support to enable them to develop a better understanding of the issues that face their children through the adolescent years.

In 2013, the College engaged Mark LeMessurier to facilitate a workshop for parents around social and emotional issues of young people and how parents can work with their children to manage these issues. This project will provide parents with further opportunities to support their children to achieve the best possible outcomes in their social and emotional wellbeing and thus their learning.

**Summary**

30 school communities applied for PIE Grant funding in 2014 with the amount of funds requested totalling $34,175.

26 projects (supporting 28 school communities) were recommended for approval by the Minister to receive a proportion of the $25,000 available for distribution.
Acknowledgements

In the spirit of partnership, the Council of the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities acknowledges the following for their support of the work of the Federation in 2014:

- Parents and families, who, as integral members of our Catholic school communities, have worked in partnership with educators to support their school and encourage their children’s education;

- Board Chairs and parent group leaders for promoting and valuing the Federation as an advocate for parents and utilising its resources to support their schools’ parent communities;

- The highly dedicated and skilled teachers, school staff and school leaders in SA Catholic schools for their commitment to provide a quality education for our children in partnership with parents and in an environment that nurtures their intellectual, physical and spiritual development;

- All leaders, education advisers and staff of the Catholic Education Offices in SA for their authentic commitment to working in partnership with the Federation;

- All past, retiring, continuing and new Council members for their commitment and expertise and passion for parent engagement in education;

- The Federation office staff who bring a passion and commitment to their work that complements their many and varied skills and special qualities.