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.
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 45th 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 45 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.

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.

Nominations are welcome.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has”
Margaret Mead
2011-2012 FEDERATION COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE

President:
Kay Neill
Nazareth Catholic College

Vice President:
Dianne Mack
Sacred Heart Middle & Senior School
Marymount College

Vice President:
Simon Abbot
St Columba College

Treasurer:
Paul Della
St Michael's College

PAST PRESIDENT

Caz Bosch

MEMBERS

Shefia Nemer-Khoury
St Thomas' School
St Mary's College

Jlse Sanderson
Samaritan College

Karen Collingwood
Nazareth Catholic College

Theresa Pannunzio (Leave of absence)
St. Raphael's School
Loreto College

Rebecca Smith (Casual)
St Brigid's, Kilburn

2011 FEDERATION OFFICE STAFF

Executive Director:
Ann Bliss

Parent Project Officer:
Terri Judd

Finance Officer:
Teresa Matkovic

Administrative Officer:
Michelle Cockshell

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr Tom Ffrench (late)

Mrs Nicky Mullins

Dr. Des Dineen

Mrs Jenny Damiani
Parents are the first and continuing educators of their children in all dimensions of life.

“The purpose of the school is to help the family educate the child”
*(Don Edgar)*

…Parents have a particularly important part to play in the educating community, since it is to them that primary and natural responsibility for their children’s education belongs…”
*(The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium). Congregation of Catholic Education. (1997)*

This gives legitimacy to the role of parents as engaged partners in education at all levels of influence and impact - from Canberra to the Cubby house and all points in between.

From the development of policy to the practical, everyday support for our children’s learning at home.

In partnership with politicians, government departments and education authorities, with school leaders, with teachers and with our children.

Engaging parents in education is fundamental:
- As collaborative decision makers
- As advocates.
- As first educators.
- As role models and leaders
- As active participants in school communities

Parents have both a right *and a responsibility* to be actively engaged in education in all these roles and across all these levels.

We commend this annual report of the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities to you as a snapshot of the Federation’s work in 2011 in ensuring, enabling and supporting parent engagement in education across all these levels of influence and impact. It offers examples of our work in advocacy, representation and service delivery on behalf of parents with children in Catholic schools in South Australia.

We dedicate this report to members of our Catholic school parent communities who work in partnership with schools to support their school and encourage their children’s education. We acknowledge your contribution through your membership on our school boards and parent committees, your support of school, classroom and sporting programs, your involvement in learning reviews and information meetings and providing a supportive home environment that promotes your children’s learning and wellbeing.
THE AUSTRALIAN PARENTS COUNCIL (APC)

The Federation is an affiliate of the 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 Australian Government on issues in relation to the education reform agenda.

In 2011, the Federation was strongly involved in the governance of the APC via representation on the APC National Executive including Caz Bosch and Ann Bliss who were re-elected as President and Vice-President respectively and Paul Della who was elected as Treasurer in September 2011.

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

- Meetings with senior officials from the Department for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) in Canberra;
- Meeting with members of the panel overseeing the Review of Funding for Schooling;
- The APC Annual Conference in Melbourne in September 2011 and APC National Executive;
- Family School and Community Partnerships Bureau governance committee including oversight of the AISTL pilot project on teacher standards relating to engaging parents, development of a Professional Learning module for early career teachers on working in partnership with parents and planning for a national symposium on parental engagement in student learning and schools for 2012;
- Parental Engagement in Schooling in Low SES Communities taskforce;
- Federal Government’s Students with Disabilities working group;
- Consultations and/or submissions regarding:
  - The Review of Funding for Schooling
  - General Capabilities within the Australian Curriculum
  - Studies of Asia
  - Development of parent satisfaction surveys for MySchool
  - National Professional Standards for Teachers pilot studies
  - National accreditation of pre-service teacher training
  - The Senate Inquiry into Cyber-safety
  - Productivity Commission’s Schools Workforce Study
  - Schools Assistance Amendment Bill
The APC’s key internal working groups, with strong Federation representation, continued to meet in 2011 to support the work of the Executive Director and to inform and direct APC position of key education issues. These included:

- College of Executive Officers;
- Government Policy, Funding and Advocacy task group (Chaired by Caz Bosch);
- Parent Engagement and Partnership Task Group (Chaired by Ann Bliss);
- Membership and Development Task Group;
- Indigenous Parent Factor (IPF) Project reference group;
- Review of Successful Learning in the Early Years – The Parent Factor program

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.
POLITICAL ADVOCACY

Federal:

The Federal Government review of funding for schooling – referred to as ‘The Gonski Review’ – was the major focus of the Federation’s work in the area of political advocacy in 2011.

This review of all public funding for all students in all schools in all sectors is a significant element of the education reform agenda and of particular relevance to the Federation’s goals of choice, equity, quality and parental voice in education. The Federation submitted a detailed response to the review panel’s Emerging Issues Paper responding specifically to the following themes emerging from the initial consultation with stakeholders:

- Community and Family Engagement
- Equity in Educational Outcomes
- Recurrent Funding
- Capital Funding
- Targeted and needs based funding
- Support for students with special needs and students with disability
- Governance and Leadership

The Federation’s submission was underpinned by its commitment to advocate for choice, quality, equity and parental voice in education. To this end, an explicit call for funding to promote parental engagement in student learning as a key factor in improving educational outcomes for children and young people was central to the Federation’s submission.

The Federation also contributed to the development of the Australian Parents Council’s submission to the review

The Federation was represented in the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools (SACCS) Political Strategy Group and contributed to a comprehensive communication strategy to keep families informed of the progress of the review. This aligned with the national strategy prepared by the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC).
State:

The Federation met with the then Education Minister, Jay Weatherill, to progress the Labor Party’s election commitments in relation to the level of state funding for students in Catholic schools which included:

- A commitment to address relativity between the SA Government per capita grant to Non-Government school students and the Australian average;
- Commitment to evaluate capacity to provide assistance for capital works in Non-Government schools;
- Commitment to address the issue of collaboration between all sectors in accessing support services such as speech pathology.

Given that the review of funding for schooling was taking into account all public funding for all students in all schools in all sectors, progression of these commitments was put on hold by the Minister awaiting the completion of the Gonski Review and the release of the Review’s recommendations.

As a member of the Non-Government Schools Advisory Committee, the Federation contributed to the development of a briefing paper by this committee for Minister Weatherill as Minister for Education to support his response to the Funding Review panel’s Emerging Issues Paper.

Copies of the Federation’s response to the Emerging Issues Paper were sent to each state party leader with the request to meet to discuss the Federation’s positions. This resulted in meetings with Dennis Hood (Family First) and Minister Weatherill.

On review of the state budget papers, the Federation:

- Identified issues for clarification and greater transparency regarding the delineation of federal and state funding for education and negotiated for this to be addressed via the budget estimates process;
- Liaised with the Minister’s office requesting a public document on funding in the state budget for non-government schooling as the Minister’s public statement only focussed on funding for public education.

“Education costs money, but then so does ignorance”  
Claus Moser
SERVICE DELIVERY TO SCHOOLS

In 2011, the Federation continued to deliver a range of services to schools via its Parental Engagement and Partnership Project.

Support for school parent communities and school leaders
The Federation worked with school parent groups and school leaders in 2011 in a range of ways including to support the development, work and review of their parent groups particularly in the area of promoting and celebrating parent participation and involvement, developing and reviewing meeting structures and processes, the provision of ideas and resources to support successful fundraising, community building and pastoral care initiatives and promoting and supporting the development of strong family/school partnership models.

The Parent Project Officer ran support meetings/information sessions for P&F/School Boards in 20 schools and 20 support meetings for school leaders in 2011.

Regional visits
Seventeen regional visits were undertaken providing support for the P&F groups and parent education workshops in 10 country school communities including the Riverland region: (4 schools), South East region: (3 schools), Yorketown, Wallaroo and Port Pirie.

Parent workshops
The Parent Project Officer ran 46 workshops in Catholic schools for a total of 731 parents in 2011.

A list of parent workshops offered in 2011 is provided in Appendix 1.

The Federation hosted the AGM presentation by renowned speaker Jodie Benveniste, Director, Parent Wellbeing titled: ‘How to achieve family wellbeing’ with particular reference for families of school age children/young people and a focus on the link between wellbeing and learning.

Resources
A website review was undertaken as part of a Catholic Education SA project with the new look website due to be launched in 2012.

Resources to support P&F (or equivalent) groups and other parent committees were supplied on request and were customised to the needs of the school community.

A brochure designed to promote volunteering in SA Catholic schools was developed which can be customised by school communities.
Parents in Education (PIE) Grants
The Federation advocated for an increase in PIE grant funding from the Minister for Education. $15,000 was provided to distribute to schools within our sector to assist in running innovative projects designed to increase and support parent participation in their school.

Increased interest in PIE Grants was noted for 2011-2012 with a total of 34 applications received from 29 SA Catholic schools seeking $44,123.30 worth of grant funding. A total of 16 project applications from 15 schools were successful in receiving grants to the total of $15,000. All other applications were deemed eligible but were not prioritised for funds in 2012.

A list of successful grants in 2011/2012 is listed in Appendix 2.

Communication with affiliates
All hard and electronic communication from the Federation was directed to the Chairperson of the school/college governing body, with an electronic copy to school principals, to ensure that our school communities have an equitable opportunity to access information about the services and resources of the Federation through the tabling of correspondence at Board meetings. In schools where a formal parent association is in place, the Chair was asked to forward all correspondence to the President via this association’s representative on the governing body.

In 2011, the Federation’s quarterly newsletter “Federation News” was produced and distributed to parent leaders for broader distribution to all parents in Catholic schools each term.

This newsletter allowed the Federation to communicate to all parents and provided information and updates on key educational issues and on relevant seminars, workshops and resources for parents. A data base of individual subscribers to the newsletter was maintained and the newsletter was sent electronically to them each term.

Complimentary copies of the Australian Parents Council’s quarterly publication, ‘APC Review’, were included in these mail outs in addition to promotional material about the Parent Workshops.

Promotion of Parental Engagement in Education
The Executive Director and Parent Project Officer promoted models of family school partnerships in schools via presentations to school governing bodies, school leaders, emerging leaders and Early Career teachers, Key Literacy and Numeracy Teachers, newsletter articles, workshops and support meetings to assist schools to increase parent participation.

The Parent Project Officer also worked closely with school and parent leaders on request to support, develop and promote positive and constructive Family/School partnerships using a customized workshop titled “Embracing and Building Community” designed for P&F / Parent groups that wish to reinvigorate the role and purpose of their group. This workshop includes strategies for
problem solving, setting directions i.e. formation of an Action Plan and also includes resources and tools for strategic planning in partnership with school leaders and the parent community. This workshop is designed to celebrate parent engagement and also promote strategies for building community further.

The 2011 “Tom Ffrench Family-School Partnership Awards” were presented at the Annual General Meeting in May. These annual awards celebrate the work being achieved in our schools in engaging parents in education.

Successful award recipients and special commendations in 2011 were:

- Our Lady of Grace, Glengowrie
- St Mary Magdalene’s, Elizabeth South
- St Thomas More, Elizabeth Park
- Catherine McAuley, Craigmore
- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Enfield
- St Anthony’s School, Edwardstown

See Appendix 3 for details.

Learning Assistance Program (LAP)
The Federation maintains a very strong commitment to LAP in our schools through representation on the LAP Association’s Management Committee.

Charter for Parents in Catholic Schools SA

A comprehensive communication and marketing strategy was employed to promote the Charter for Parents in Catholic Schools SA utilising CESA online, the Principals’ Associations, CESA News and the Southern Cross. The Parent Project Officer and Executive Director personally presented a framed Charter to school boards and P&F groups promoting the initiative as an important tool for school communities to use to promote the role of parents in the essential partnership between families and schools. This method of distribution also enabled the Federation to reconnect in person with parent leaders within our school communities.

Empowering Parents to Support their Child with their Special Learning Needs

This initiative was funded by a grant received from the Premier’s Community Initiatives Fund.

Elements of the project included hosting sessions for the parent communities at St Joseph’s School, Hectorville and St Patrick’s Special School with:

Guest speaker Jill Bailes from the Special Education Resource Unit (SERU) titled: ‘Boardmaker, Make it, Take It Session’.
In this session, parents and carers created their own laminated visual resources using Boardmaker to support their child’s communication at home;

Guest Speaker: Margie Abbott from Igniting Sparks. Margie led a focus group discussion to assist in the development of a Parent Orientation Support package for schools to support parents with children with special needs.

The project will be completed in 2012.

Acknowledgement

The Federation acknowledges with thanks the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools (SACCS), the Association of Principals of Catholic Secondary Schools (APCSS), the South Australian Catholic Primary Principals’ Association (SACPPA) and the Premier’s Department for grant funding in 2011 to support the Parental Engagement and Partnership Project and the Minister for Education for the PIE grant funding to support local school initiatives.
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

In 2011, Federation was represented on the Australian Parents Council (APC) National Executive, the National Catholic Education Commission’s (NCEC) Parent Committee, 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.

In 2011, the Federation’s representation on these forums resulted in the strategic contribution to the management, development, promotion, implementation and/or review of the following:

- National Family/Schools Partnership Bureau
- NCEC 2011 National Convention
- Federal Government’s Review of Funding for Schooling
- National Partnership projects
- National resource titled “Strengthening Family and Community Engagement in Student Learning”.
- National Professional Standards for Teachers pilot studies
- National Accreditation of Pre-Service Teacher Training Programs
- National draft Employability Skills Framework
- Funding model for students with disabilities
- National Disability Standards for Education
- APC/ACSSO’s Parents Understanding Asia Literacy project
- APC’s program “Successful Learning in the Early Years – The parent factor”
- SA Education and Care Legislative Review
- The new SACE
- World Teachers Day celebrations
- MP John Gardner’s private member’s bill to amend the Liquor Licencing Act
- CESA Drug and Alcohol Education initiatives
- Review of CESA Services
- Leadership Development programs in Catholic Education SA
- Review of SACCS Enrolment policy
- Cyber safety initiatives
- Early Career Teacher induction programs
- Review of Multicultural Education Policy
- Child Protection Policy and Curriculum
- Charter for Parents in Catholic Schools SA
- SACCS Fees Policy
- SACCS Enrolment Policy
- SACCS Vision Statement

A list of all representations covered by the Federation in 2011 is attached (Appendix 4).
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 2011, 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 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 of a financial report that is free from material misstatement.

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 of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, 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, in all material respects the financial position of The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities as at 31 December 2011 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 22nd day of May 2012
THE FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PARENT COMMUNITIES

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011
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 2011.

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 $9,744.15 (2010 $13,629.14).

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 23rd day of May 2012.
## THE FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL
## PARENT COMMUNITIES

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>2011</th>
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<td>Doubtful Debt Provision</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>238,313.83</td>
<td>216,638.23</td>
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</table>

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Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary Activities  
Retained Profits at the beginning of the financial year  
Transfer To Special Purpose Reserves  
Retained Profits at the end of the financial year

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.
THE FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PARENT COMMUNITIES

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
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</table>

**CURRENT ASSETS**

- Cash and Cash Equivalents 2 143,620.45 128,824.23
- Trade and Other Receivables 3 20,500.00 16,500.00
- Prepayments 4,340.29 3,461.11

  TOTAL ASSETS 168,460.74 148,785.34

**CURRENT LIABILITIES**

- Trade and Other Payables 4 23,482.38 16,825.94

  TOTAL LIABILITIES 23,482.38 16,825.94

**NET ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
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  144,978.36 131,959.40

**MEMBERS RESERVES**

- Reserves 5 70,003.21 66,728.40
- Retained Profits 74,975.15 65,231.00

  TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS 144,978.36 131,959.40

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.
THE FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PARENT COMMUNITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

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)(v) 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 2011. 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 2011

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 FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PARENT COMMUNITIES

STATEMENT BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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 2011 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 9 day of May 2012.
PARENT WORKSHOPS OFFERED IN 2011

Responding to Abuse and Neglect, Education and Care Induction Seminars for Volunteers
This seminar provides an introduction to the concept of mandatory notification highlighting the role and responsibilities of volunteers. It is targeted to all volunteers in schools – LAP, sports coaches, canteen volunteers and those attending camps and excursions.

Supporting Kids to Make Good Choices
Suitable for those schools with Choice Theory as a particular focus, this workshop introduces the concepts of Choice Theory and looks at implementing the principles in the context of parenting.

Making the Most of Parent Teacher Interviews
This workshop is for parents wishing to develop a constructive working relationship with their child’s teacher and make the most of parent-teacher conversations. Based on research that: “Comprehensive, well planned partnerships between family and school lead to higher student achievement.” (Henderson and Berla, 1994)

Bullying- some questions answered
This workshop answers the “what? how? and why?” about bullying. It explores strategies that parents may employ to address the issue of bullying with their children and ways that parents can support and complement the school policies related to bullying and personal responsibility.

From Primary to Secondary School – supporting parents with this transition
This workshop explores the issues that may arise for parents when their child moves from primary school to secondary school and identifies strategies to support parents in this transition.

Yr 8 Orientation Session
This customised program is designed to be offered in the secondary school setting for parents of students due to start in Year 8. It is developed and implemented in partnership with the school principal and parent leaders to ensure its relevance to the school context.

The A-E of Student Reports – making them work to support your child’s learning
This workshop provides the opportunity to discuss the format of student reports and the role reports play in informing parents of their child’s achievements, progress, strengths and challenges at school. It explores the rights and responsibilities of parents to work in partnership with the school to support their child’s learning.

Choosing a Secondary School
This interactive workshop explores a decision making process that parents may apply when undertaking the challenging task of choosing a secondary school for their child.
Building Your Child’s Resilience
This interactive workshop for parents explores some strategies for building resilience in children. It also includes information and ideas for addressing the issue of bullying with children and supporting and complementing school policies relating to bullying and personal responsibility.

Supporting Your Child’s Learning
This workshop explores handy hints and strategies for parents and caregivers to play a central role in supporting their child’s learning to maximising success, including tips for stress free homework and much more.

Cyber-safety Awareness for Parents and Carers
This workshop explores some strategies for keeping children safe online. It includes information for addressing the issue of cyber-bullying and supporting and complementing school policies relating to bullying and personal responsibility.

Embracing and Building Community
This workshop is customised to the needs of school and parent leaders and is offered on request. The workshop aims to support, develop and promote positive and constructive Family/School partnerships and is designed for P&F / Parent groups that wish to reinvigorate the role and purpose of their group. This workshop includes strategies for problem solving, setting directions i.e. formation of an Action Plan and also includes resources and tools for strategic planning in partnership with school leaders and the parent community. This workshop is designed to celebrate parent engagement and also promote strategies for building community further.
SUCCESSFUL PIE GRANT PROJECTS FOR 2011-2012

**All Saints Catholic School**

Project 1: ‘Encouraging parents and grandparents to support their child’s education about school gardens and gardening techniques in general’

The aim of this project is to engage parents and grandparents in the school community via an environmentally sustainable project such as a school garden. It will raise awareness of the benefits of school gardens and organic gardening principles. It is envisaged that this project will encourage parents and carers to participate in working bees and also support their child’s learning by participating in their child’s class activities.

Project 2: ‘Building Community through Tradition’

This program is a multigenerational and multicultural community experience. The project aims to celebrate and encourage the sharing of ‘grandparent’s/ special friends’ varied Traditions with the school community, showcasing diverse nationalities. It will include opportunities for grandparents and special friends to share traditional foods and games from their childhood. Grandparents and special friends with multicultural and Indigenous backgrounds will be invited to share different aspects of their childhood memories which will be preserved via PowerPoint or recorded digitally at the event.

**Tenison Woods College**

Project: ‘Positive parenting to support their child’s learning’

This project will include a series of six workshops aimed to support families to support their child’s learning whilst also learning strategies in developing their children to become successful members of the school community. Sessions will cover health and education topics. Workshop topics will include:
- Healthy eating
- Developmental stages
- Reading strategies.

**Mount Carmel College**

Project: ‘Celebrating diverse cultures with a Multicultural Evening for parent and carers’

This Project aims to embrace and build community with a Multi-Cultural evening/day celebrating the contributions that families make to the diverse school community. The event will be combined with the College’s Open Night/Day and will include both current families and potential new families looking for a suitable school for their children. This project will embrace families from a diverse range of nationalities and aims to raise awareness of cultural differences celebrate diversity and increase understanding of differences in the school community. The event will include food stalls, arts/crafts, a performance in national costume, or a performance from Indigenous parents/students.
**Our Lady of the River School**

Project: ‘Engaging parents in gaining computer skills to support their child’s learning and homework activities’

This project aims to increase parent participation in their child’s learning by gaining knowledge and skills in computing to assist their child with their school work/homework. It will aim to raise parents’ awareness in cyber-safety and cyber bullying issues, provide a social outlet for parents’ carers who are socially isolated, including parents from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and Aboriginal decent. It aims to improve parent literacy skills and encourage greater parent participation in the school community and gain more confidence in becoming involved in the decision making of the school.

**Loreto College**

Project: ‘We care together’ A series of workshops supporting parents and carers in key areas of social and emotional development of children.

This project aims to strengthen family and school partnerships in promoting children’s mental health and wellbeing. The aim addresses one of the four key components (Parenting Support and Education) of the Kids Matter Primary program currently being implemented at the Primary School. Parents and carers will be supported via a series of workshops specifically chosen by the Kids Matter Action team in consultation with parents and their needs. The workshops will also extend support to parents with children in the middle and senior years with workshops on topics relevant to the age groups.

**St Brigid’s School, Kilburn**

Project: ‘Building happy, healthy families’

This program aims to promote greater family involvement in their child’s education via a program titled: ‘The Incredible Years Program’. The program is aimed at parents with children aged 5-12yrs and will include parents from diverse cultural groups including Indigenous. Part of the program is aimed at encouraging more fathers to become involved in their child’s education. The Incredible Years program is highly evidenced based which involves social and emotional coaching for parents, teachers and students. The program consists of weekly two hour sessions over 10 weeks and encourages parents to support their child’s learning by becoming involved in the school.

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

Project: Grandparents Day; Encouraging grandparents to participate in school activities’

Grandparents Day will provide an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the important role that our grandparents play in student’s life. The project aims to encourage greater grandparent participation in the school. A morning tea will be provided and students will supply entertainment for visitors. Classrooms will showcase student’s work. Grandparents will be invited to tour the school with student Guides. The tour will highlight student’s resources and provide grandparents with knowledge to allow them to relate to the student’s current curriculum.
St Patrick’s Technical College

Project: ‘Drug proof your kids: Building parent child relationships’

This project is aimed at encouraging parent participation in their child’s learning and wellbeing. The project will include the: Drug Proof your Kids Program which is a series of workshops that will be held at the school site, once weekly over six weeks. The program will be facilitated by a College staff member and co facilitated by a parent. It is envisaged that this program will help to build relationships with parents that attend. It is intended that such parents will then be invited to deeper interaction with the College Community.

St Joseph’s School, Renmark

Project: ‘Getting involved in your child’s education through volunteering’

This project aims to encourage more parents/carers/grandparents (especially those who are not already) to be involved in their child’s education by becoming a volunteer/helper in the school and with their child’s/grandchild’s classroom. Involvement will be encouraged in (but not limited to): Rainbow Reading, Literacy programs; LAP program, Excursions; School canteen, Sports Day assistance; Working bees; Aged care visits; School Board membership and P&F membership etc. A morning tea will be held in National Volunteers Week, 14th-20th May 2012. This event will also celebrate current volunteering and volunteers and encourage more volunteering. Volunteer Information packs will be distributed on the day. Volunteer brochures from the Federation of Catholic Schools will also be included in the packs.

Christ the King School

Project: ‘Embracing community via Multicultural morning teas and Working Bees and Family Time’

This project aims to embrace community by fostering relationships and creating a culture of belonging.

The program will include special morning teas for families with culturally diverse and linguistically rich backgrounds. These family gatherings will encourage parents / carers to participate and engage more in their child’s learning. The project will also establish a ‘Working with Pride’ program aiming to bring families and their children together to improve school grounds and gardens. A BBQ and Touch Footy will round up the morning of working together.

St John Bosco School

Project: ‘Engaging parents in the National Partnerships Project exploring literacy initiatives from Reception to Year 7 via a Learning Literacy Trail’

This is a collaborative project organised with teachers, parents and students as part of the National Partnerships project. This program aims to bring together the school community to celebrate the literacy journey through the classes exploring literacy initiatives from Reception to Year 7. Families will follow a trail and view student learning displays followed by sharing a light supper.
St Columba College

Project: ‘Empowering Parents through Communication and Connection’

This program aims to better engage parents from a non-English speaking backgrounds, specifically Sudanese parents who have very little or no involvement within the College community. The primary purpose of the program is to strengthen relationships with these parents and improve their ability and willingness to engage with the College when they need support. It is hoped that these parents will become more involved in general College life by breaking down language barriers and improving cultural awareness. This project will engage parents in a series of Food Technology activity sessions.

St Bernadette’s Primary School

Project: ‘Empowering parents to support their child’s learning’

This project aims to encourage parent participation in the school community via a series of 3 workshops that will offer parents and carers tools and resources to deal with the challenges of parenting and support their child’s education. Group discussions will give parents the opportunity to interact, share issues and gain support and feel part of the school community.

Caritas College

Project: ‘Embracing community: Reconciliation and Cultural celebration’

This project entails a week long program that aims to support the extended families of 50 Indigenous students in the College. The project will coincide with Reconciliation week and will support a School Liturgy event. A celebration with musicians, artists and local dancers would complement the celebrations throughout the week.

Stella Maris Parish School

Project: ‘Encouraging parent involvement in indigenous studies’

This project aims to encourage parent engagement and includes a Morning Tea for parents of Indigenous students as part of the Indigenous studies program. All parents will be invited to take part in class based activities on the day, culminating with morning tea.
Appendix 3

Tom Ffrench Family School Partnership Awards
Summary of 2011 Awards

Faith Formation and Ministry awarded to:
   Our Lady Of Grace for its initiative:
   “Protecting our Environment”

This award celebrates the work of Our Lady of Grace School where through a range of exciting and innovative projects it has engaged all members of its community, including parents and families, to work together to protect our environment. The initiative lives out our Catholic community’s call to care for our earth and is, therefore, an excellent example of the work our schools undertake to engage with families in this ministry in response to the challenge presented by the Catholic Church’s ecological vision statement “On Holy Ground”.

Building Community awarded to:
   St Mary Magdalene’s School, St Thomas More School and Catherine McAuley School
   for their joint project: Elizabeth Community Connections

This award recognises this innovative joint initiative designed to connect with parents and families in the three Elizabeth parish schools. The project employs a Community Development Coordinator whose responsibility is to promote parental involvement in their children’s learning and to support them to develop stronger connections with their children’s school. The project aims to create communities of welcome and inclusion that build parents’ confidence and capacity to support their children’s learning. This project is showcased as a leading practice model in the national Parental Engagement in Schooling in Low SES Communities project and associated resource for schools which is to be launched later this year.

Celebrating Diversity awarded to:
   Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Enfield for its commitment to engaging with parents and families from diverse cultures.

This award recognises OLSH’s commitment to engage with parents and families from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds as integral members of the school community. This is expressed in its holistic approach to reaching out and welcoming these families into the life of the school and inviting them to join as partners in the education of their children. This whole of school approach is also showcased as a leading practice model in the national Parental Engagement in Schooling in Low SES Communities project and associated resource for schools which is to be launched later this year.

‘Engaging Families in Student Learning and the Curriculum’ awarded to:
   St. Anthony’s School, Edwardstown for its initiative
   “Empowering Parents with the skills to be Effective Home Read Tutors”

This initiative reflects one of the key dimensions of successful Family School Partnerships – connecting the learning at home and at school. It recognises parents as the first and continuing educators and as partners in their children’s education.

The project involves the provision of fortnightly reading sessions for parents of students in Reception to Year 2. The innovative nature of the initiative is that the information is delivered over time with opportunities for parents to practise the skills with their children and then share and reflect with the group at the next session.
COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS 2011

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

NATIONAL LEVEL

National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) Parent Committee
Dianne Mack and Jlse Sanderson

NCEC 2011 Convention Steering Committee
Ann Bliss

National Parental Engagement Taskforce
Ann Bliss

Australian Parents Council (APC)
- President – Caz Bosch
- Vice President – Ann Bliss
- National Executive – Caz Bosch, Ann Bliss, Kay Neill and Paul Della
- Government Advocacy, Funding and Policy Task Group – Caz Bosch (Chair), Kay Neill and Ann Bliss
- Parent Engagement and Partnership task group – Ann Bliss (Chair),
- Membership and Development task group – Ann Bliss and Kay Neill
- College of Executive Officers - Ann Bliss
- Family School and Community Partnership Bureau Governance Committee – Caz Bosch
- Indigenous Parent Factor Project reference group – Caz Bosch, Kay Neill and Paul Della

STATE LEVEL

Ministerial Advisory Committee on Non-Government Schools
Ann Bliss

Teachers Registration Board – Ann Bliss (Non-representative)

SACE Parent Reference group – Ann Bliss
SACE Merit Committee – Ann Bliss

Education and Care Legislative Review Stakeholders Group – Ann Bliss
CATHOLIC EDUCATION SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS (SACCS)
Ann Bliss (Non-representative)

Standing Committees
- Religious Leadership and Culture – Ann Bliss (as Chair) and Shefia Nemer-Khoury
- Administration, Finance and Planning – Kay Neill
- Faith and Education – Dianne Mack and Terri Judd

Committees
- Planning Committee – Ann Bliss
- Special Education Advisory Committee – Paul Della
- Capital Development Committee – Ann Bliss
- Educational Programs Advisory Committee – Ann Bliss
- Languages, Literacy and Numeracy Advisory Committee – Liz O’Loughlin/Simon Abbott
- Behaviour Education and Review Committee – Terri Judd
- Enterprise Vocational Education Advisory Committee – Dianne Mack
- Employees Relation Committee – Kay Neill (as Chair)
- ‘Made in the Image of God’ reference committee – Shefia Nemer-Khoury
- Political Strategy Advisory Group – Ann Bliss

Working Parties
- Child Protection – Terri Judd
- Child Protection Curriculum Development – Terri Judd
- Refugee Task Group – Liz O’Loughlin/Terri Judd
- Catholic Schools Music Festival Review – Paul Della
- Enrolment Policy Review – Liz O’Loughlin
- Multicultural Education Policy Review – Ann Bliss

Other
- Nazareth Early Children’s Centre Working Group – Ann Bliss

INTER SECTOR COMMITTEES
(State, Catholic and Independent)

- SA Canteen Network – Terri Judd
- LAP Association Management Committee – Terri Judd
- Animal Ethics Committee – Shefia Nemer-Khoury

OTHER

- National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) – Terri Judd
- Federation’s Political Strategy Sub-committee – Caz Bosch, Kay Neill, Dianne Mack and Ann Bliss
FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENT COMMUNITIES (SA)
STRATEGIC INTENTIONS

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<td>Advocate for the right to choose a Catholic education</td>
<td>Advocate for a fair and equitable distribution of government recurrent and capital funding for schooling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote an understanding and appreciation of the contribution of Catholic education</td>
<td>Advocate for appropriate basic funding entitlements for all Catholic school students from the federal and state governments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Represent parent rights and perspectives</td>
<td>Advocate for parity in funding for students with disability, and special educational needs across all education sectors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen and expand politically strategic relationships</td>
<td>Advocate for educational policy and practice that addresses educational disadvantage for Indigenous students, students from disadvantaged backgrounds and rural and remote communities.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUALITY</th>
<th>VOICE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<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>
<td>Build a reputation as a peak body in education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drive, promote and support family engagement and partnerships in education</td>
<td>Contribute to the shaping of educational policy and practice with strategic and skilled representation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop and deliver innovative parent projects</td>
<td>Build networks with like bodies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Build and sustain strategic partnerships with key stakeholders</td>
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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 2011:

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.

“Whilst children are clearly at the centre of (education) policy, it is parents to whom the Government is most directly accountable”
Minister Peter Garrett, APC Conference 2011
“When parents, the community, the teacher and the students share a rapport, learning occurs...Effective schools use their internal collaborative strength to seek out relationships with the community. They see parents more as part of the solution than as part of the problem. They pursue programs and activities that are based on two-way capacity building in order to mobilise the resources of both community and the school in the service of learning” Michael Fullan (2000)

“School opportunities and challenges can only be adequately addressed if a wider school/community partnership works together. Schools cannot succeed with the efforts of teachers and administrators alone” Peter Kenyon

“Family School Partnerships are collaborative relationships and activities involving school staff, parents and other family members of students at a school. Effective partnerships are based on mutual trust and respect and shared responsibility for the education of the children and young people at the school” (Family-School Partnerships Framework – A Guide for Schools and Families - 2008)