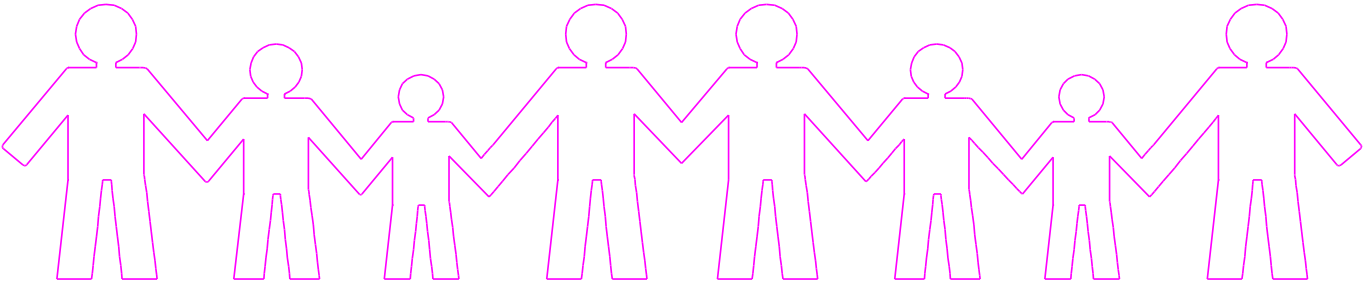


DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG PARENT FORUM





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2.1 THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG PARENT FORUM

The Wollongong Diocesan Parent Forum was established in 2003 by Bishop Peter Ingham and is administered by the Catholic Education Office, Wollongong. It was formed to identify and develop structures that will initiate and sustain involvement of parents and care-givers in the education of their children.

The aims of the Forum are to:

- **LEAD**
To identify and develop structures that will initiate and sustain involvement of parents and care-givers as the primary educators of their children.
- **SUPPORT**
To be a visible body providing information, support and a reference point for both parents and teachers to better understand and respect each other's approach.
- **ADVOCATE**
To be a representative and advocate of the Catholic school parent perspective in the wider community.

It does this by:

- providing support for P&Fs throughout the Diocese;
- representing Catholic school parents throughout the Diocese in the wider community;
- providing opportunities for the formation of parents on matters of religious education, learning and teaching and issues relating to the general life in our schools; and,
- providing support to schools to develop greater more meaningful partnerships between parents, school and Parish.

2.2 WHO DOES THE FORUM REPRESENT?

The Parent Forum represents all parents/carers of children enrolled in systemic schools throughout the Diocese.

2.3 WHAT IS THE COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS NSW (CCSP)?

The Council of Catholic School Parents NSW (CCSP) was established in 1995 and is the peak state body representing Catholic school parents/Carers throughout the state.

The Council exists to provide leadership, advocacy and support to all parents with children in Catholic schools in NSW. It provides a wider forum for discussing education issues and for articulating a parent position which can be incorporated into state level considerations.

The CCSP is represented on the Catholic Education Commission NSW and through it has significant access to, and involvement in, mainstream education issues as well as input into policy and financial decisions.

It also provides submissions around current issues and authors papers to assist schools and systems interpret the state and national education agendas.

MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Council come from each of the 11 Dioceses in NSW and ACT. Each Diocese has a delegate on the Council as well as a representative on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee. Congregational schools are also represented.

Individual schools affiliate with the Council via their Diocesan parent group. Each Diocesan parent group authorises in writing a parent to act as its delegate on the Council.

The Council is funded by an annual affiliation fee paid by the member organisations, a grant from the Catholic Education Commission NSW and an annual grant from the State Government.

The main roles of the CCSP can be summarised as:

- representation and advocacy of the Catholic school's parent perspective;
- networking and communicating with and for Catholic school parents groups;
- monitoring policies and agencies for their impact on Catholic schools; and,
- promoting partnership and collaboration with resources to assist systems and schools engage with their parents and communities.

More information and resources from the CCSP can be found at www.ccsp.catholic.edu.au.

2.4 WHAT IS CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS AUSTRALIA (CSPA)?

Parents of Catholic school students are also represented at a national level.

Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA) was launched in October 2013 and exists to provide a distinct, autonomous and truly national voice for the parents of all children in Catholic schools in Australia.

MEMBERSHIP

The governing Council of the CSPA consists of two nominees from each state and territory Catholic School Parent member body.

The CSPA aims to:

- play a leading role in representing the view of parents to Federal government to help shape national policy as it relates to Catholic schools, their families and communities;
- provide a forum for Catholic school parent bodies from each state and territory to interact and share ideas; and
- further the mission of Catholic schools by working in collaboration with the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the National Catholic Education Commission.