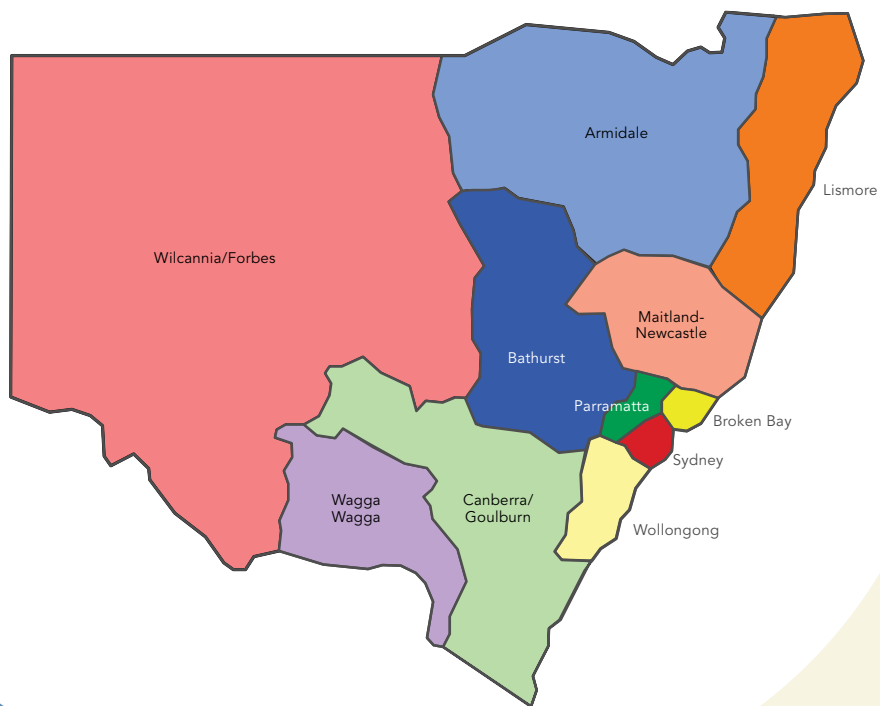


# 2024-2026 Strategic Plan



LEADERSHIP • ADVOCACY • SUPPORT





## Our reach

- ARMIDALE
- BATHURST
- BROKEN BAY
- CANBERRA-GOULBURN
- PARRAMATTA
- SYDNEY
- WAGGA WAGGA
- WILCANNIA-FORBES
- WOLLONGONG
- LISMORE
- MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

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# About CCSP

## Our Constitution

The Council's Constitution was drafted in 1993 by a planning committee and endorsed by the Conference of NSW Bishops in 2000.

The Council of Catholic School Parents CCSP is an incorporated association and is governed by a constitution and regulatory statutes or rules. The CCSP Council is responsible for ensuring the management of the association.

## Our Vision

Inspire and enable parents and carers to build communities of faith and hope.

## Our Mission

Provide leadership, advocacy and support for parents and carers of children in NSW Catholic schools.

## Parents as education partners

We value and promote the critical role that parents play in the education of their children.

## Collaboration

We draw on the knowledge, skills and experience of volunteers and staff to achieve our goals.

## Authenticity

We ensure we are informed, truly representative, ethical and accountable.

## Catholic Social Teaching

We uphold and promote the principles of human dignity, the common good, subsidiarity and solidarity.

## Who we serve

CCSP NSW/ACT supports parents and carers of students in Catholic schools as well as Bishops, diocesan directors, principals and school staff

## Key stakeholders

- Australian Catholic University
- Catholic School Parents Australia
- Catholic Schools NSW
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council
- National Catholic Education Commission
- State and Federal Education Ministers







Since 1995, CCSP has been the voice of Catholic school parents in decision-making within and beyond the NSW Catholic education sector.

In 1992 Catholic school parents accepted a brief from the Conference of Bishops to establish a parent Organisation that would represent all parents of children in Catholic schools in NSW. This body, called the Council of Catholic School Parents [CCSP], had its inaugural meeting in 1995, was incorporated and listed in the 'Official Directory of the Catholic Church' in 1997 and had its interim Constitution given final ratification at a meeting of the Conference of Bishops on 9th November 2000. The CCSP is incorporated as an entity under the Roman Catholic Church Communities' Lands Act 1942.

The principle purpose of the Council is to provide leadership, advocacy and support to all parents of students in Catholic schools in the Province of Sydney

and Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulbourn and represent their interests at state and national level. Other purposes of the CCSP are:

- to affirm the obligation and rights of parents to ensure a Catholic education for their children;
- to promote Catholic education in Catholic schools in partnership and through collaboration with the Diocesan Bishops and Catholic Education agencies and other organisations in the province;
- to provide a state level forum for participation, in all aspects of Catholic education of parents of students in catholic schools in the province;
- to promote and foster the facilitation of the links between family, school, Church and the community;
- to collaborate with Diocesan Bishops, their Catholic education agencies and Catholic schools to promote and foster the development of parent organisations so as to strengthen the participation of all parents in Catholic schools in the province;



- to collaborate with and provide services to dioceses and principal and teacher associations
- to work collaboratively with all education authorities, both government and non-government, principal and teacher associations and other parent organisations

CCSP funds are provided from each diocese and Congregational schools paying a levy (reviewed annually) per student along with CSNSW support and government grants. The salary of the members of the Secretariat and the Executive Director are paid from these funds. The CCSP also receives funding from CSNSW and the NSW Government.

The Council meets four times a year – once per term – including one combined meeting which all Council and Committee members attend, and hosts a conference for parents and teachers every two years. The event attracts world-class speakers and lead researchers in their fields to discuss current issues affecting children and teenagers. The Council is supported by the Secretariat team, which currently

includes an Executive Director, Executive Officer and Administration Officer, who manage administration, finance, meetings and communication for the Chair and representatives.

Subcommittees/working parties made up of Council and/or Committee members have input into projects and resource creation during the year to assist in achieving the Council's strategic plan goals and operational work plan.

The Council also provides an annual grant – the Roger O'Sullivan Award – to a school for a community engagement project, and provides an annual teacher scholarship to a student studying to be a teacher at ACU.

From funding through to policy and curriculum development CCSP represents the interests of Catholic school parents across all areas of education that affect Catholic school families and children. We represent Catholic school parents at government level, industry level and in the media.



# Our Membership

Membership of the Council comprises parent representatives from the eleven NSW/ACT dioceses, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee and Catholic Congregational Schools representing parents in almost 600 Catholic schools.

A diocesan parent organisation is the membership body for all systemic Catholic schools within a particular diocese. Catholic systemic schools therefore affiliate to the Council through their diocesan organisation.

Where a parent organisation does not exist, the Catholic schools in the diocese are represented by a parent nominated by the Diocesan Education Office. Congregational schools affiliate directly to the Council.

## ELIGIBLE MEMBER ORGANISATIONS



### DIOCESE

Diocese of Armidale (29 schools)



Diocese of Bathurst (34 schools)



Diocese of Broken Bay (54 schools)





Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn (56 schools)

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Diocese of Lismore (47 schools)

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Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle (58 schools)

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Diocese of Parramatta (90 schools)

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Archdiocese of Sydney (173 schools)

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Diocese of Wagga Wagga (31 schools)

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Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes (19 schools)

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Diocese of Wollongong (46 schools)

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Congregational schools/Federation of Religious Institute and Ministerial Public Juridic Person School Authorities Australia (45 schools)

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# Our Leadership Framework

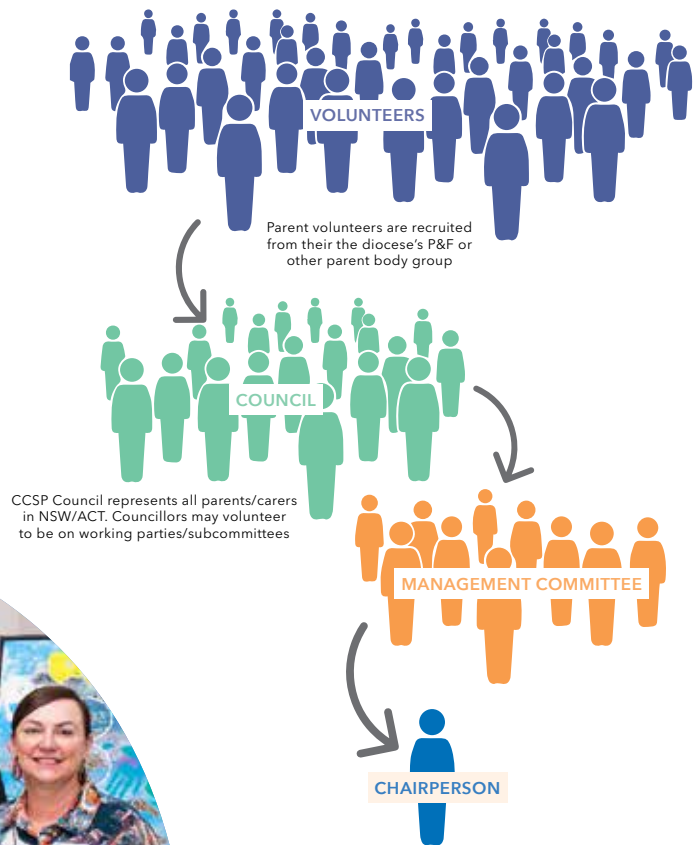
Normally, a parent volunteer joins the CCSP as a Council member elected or nominated through their diocesan processes. They may spend the whole of their time with the CCSP as a Council member or they may wish to deepen their involvement by taking on a position on the Management Committee.

A position on the Management Committee of the CCSP is a very important role that assists in providing leadership, inspiration and direction to the Council as a whole.

Particular individuals will then progress to the role of Chairperson for a specified period. A member must have been on the Council for a period of at least 12 months before being able to be elected as Chair.

The Leadership Framework helps members understand and execute their role as members of the Council and Management Committee.

## LIFE CYCLE OF COUNCILLOR MEMBERSHIP



2024 CCSP Management Committee.





## Key Concepts

- Parent engagement
- Parent involvement
- Family-school partnerships

*Learning is a partnership with parents, carers and others in the community, all of whom have a role to play in nurturing the love of learning needed for success at school and in life.*

*- Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration (December 2019)*

Catholic Schools in NSW and the ACT work in partnership with parents and their school communities to promote a shared responsibility for the education of each child:

- Parents are recognised as the first educators when it comes to their child's faith formation, learning and wellbeing
- In turn, parents contribute by valuing the Catholic identity and mission of schools
- Schools and parents partner to ensure that all students in our schools are supported in their social, spiritual and emotional development

The research is clear on the matter of parental involvement and parent engagement in education: there are profound and comprehensive benefits for students, families and schools when parents and communities become participants in their children's education and lives.

Parent involvement encompasses the more common, day-to-day activities that parents do to support their child's learning, while parent engagement involves a deeper and more collaborative partnership between parents and schools to shape the overall educational experience. Both are valuable and can complement each other to create a supportive and enriching environment for children.

Family-school partnerships are collaborative relationships and activities involving school staff, parents and other family members of students at that 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.

As the state body for parents and carers of children in Catholic school, CCSP supports dioceses and schools to encourage parent engagement.

# Three Pillars: Leadership, Advocacy, Support

The principal purpose of the Council is to provide leadership, advocacy and support to parents of children in Catholic schools and Catholic school parent associations.



LEADERSHIP



ADVOCACY



SUPPORT

## HOW WE LEAD

- Maintain a profile as an effective influential Catholic Parent Body by media, governments and the Church and a strong and effective voice for parents with children in Catholic schools in NSW and ACT.
- Educate parents and carers in the area of Catholic teachings and practices as well as curriculum and parent engagement.
- Work with parent bodies such as parent groups including Councils, Forums and P & F Associations so that parents can run effective and professional meetings.
- Assist in the development of strong Diocesan Parent Bodies and competent parent leaders.
- Identify opportunities to support parent leaders through activities such as mentoring, professional learning and succession planning
- Build/maintain the profile of its diocesan representatives and strengthens relationships with diocesan, Bishops, CSNSW and others including other parent associations
- Develop and maintain strong relationships with the media as the voice of Catholic school parents in NSW/ACT.
- Promote inclusive leadership models.
- Host a conference for parents and teachers every two years that attracts world-class speakers and lead researchers in their fields to discuss current issues affecting children and teenagers, on a range of topics such as parent engagement, student wellbeing and future-proofing students.

## HOW WE ADVOCATE

- Proactively represent the interests of Catholic school parents in NSW and ACT on issues that affect their children's health, welfare and education.
- Develop media releases regarding relevant issues affecting students and parents and carers attending Catholic schools in NSW and ACT.
- Makes submissions to government and other bodies to advocate for Catholic school parents
- Promote Catholic school interests in public policy affecting the provision and delivery of education (with particular emphasis on parents/carers).
- Foster understanding of and commitment to emerging issues which are important to the future of Catholic education.
- Support political advocacy at state and local levels especially around elections.
- Promote the role of families and family partnerships with government and others.
- Maintain a strong voice at the state and national level and promotes CCSP with government and other relevant agencies.
- Promote inclusive services for children and parents/carers.
- Represent the parent perspective on forums and committees at state level as well as working parties, reference groups and consultation groups.
- On a state level, meet regularly with local politicians and consults with the Minister for Education to develop an ongoing positive relationship.
- On a national level, Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA) is the peak body representing the state and territory-based associations of Catholic school parents of over 750,000 children in Australian Catholic schools. Through CCSP's affiliation with CSPA, we have representation on the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC), the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and

Reporting Authority (ACARA), and are consulted with on many other national bodies.

- Work to educate politicians, parents and the general public about the need for a well-funded Catholic system of schools in Australia.
- Other areas we advocate for on behalf of Catholic school parents include:
  - NSW Curriculum
  - Assessment and reporting
  - NAPLAN
  - Secondary school pathways including vocational education
  - Student health and wellbeing
  - Parent engagement in their child's education.

## HOW WE PROVIDE SUPPORT

- Provide the tools and resources that schools and families need to promote parent representation and parent engagement within their communities.
- Provide a range of effective methods of communication, both internal and external, to support members and the mission of the CCSP.
- Develop strategies that align with and/or support those of CCSP members.
- Promote strong links between families, schools and Church through various activities and initiatives.
- Deliver professional learning opportunities and undertakes projects to support parental engagement with learning and wellbeing.
- Publish a suite of useful resources and tips for parents on a wide range of topics from how to prepare for parent/teacher interviews to how to help children with their literacy and numeracy skills. CCSP is constantly expanding its resource bank to ensure parents have access to relevant and helpful information.
- Distribute a newsletter each term that covers topical issues and parenting tips.





# 1: Leadership

GOAL: To guide an authentically Catholic approach to leadership within our schools and parent bodies to support family engagement.

## PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

1. Develop and maintain database of:
  - a. Diocesan parent bodies in schools who have direct contact with parents and carers.
  - b. Diocesan directors and assistants, communications/marketing person for each diocese, principals, bishops, education officers, Aboriginal Education education officers.
  - c. Key stakeholder groups: e.g. Catholic School Parents Australia, National Catholic Education Commission, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council, Australian Catholic University, Catholic Schools NSW, State and Federal Education Ministers and support staff.
2. Increase communication with Bishops, diocesan directors and key stakeholders (identified in Strategy 1.) regarding the work of CCSP.

## MEASURES

- Increase in connections made through annual face to face (preferable) or online meetings with key stakeholders – annual summit where parents have the opportunity to directly engage with Chair, executive director, diocesan director, parent delegate, education officers and Bishop – organised by Council of Catholic Schools Parents NSW/ACT (CCSP).
  - Increase in number of diocesan parent bodies.
  - Increase in number of school parent bodies.
  - Attendance by Executive Director and Chair at one annual meeting of the NSW Bishops.
  - Attendance by Executive Director at one annual Diocesan Directors Meeting.
  - Increased attendance and presentations by key stakeholder bodies at CCSP meetings.
- 
- Three diocesan directors per term present at CCSP meetings to share current happenings in their diocese, topics of relevance, the role of parents as co-educators and family engagement; opportunity to share strategies that may be useful for other diocesan groups
  - Dioceses feel they are getting value for their dollar and levies are calculated based on increasing need, coverage of leadership, advocacy and support required by parents and carers as well as with consideration to CPI and comparative levies of other states and territories.



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| <p>3. Provide opportunities for professional learning to diocesan directors and school staff to deepen their understanding of the importance of family engagement including engaging with culturally, linguistically diverse and reflecting the needs of multigenerational families.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Online professional learning modules focusing on capacity building of staff and parent groups to be developed and made available on request to dioceses for staff/parent group development.</li></ul> |
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| <p>4. Support each diocese and the Congregational School Group to ensure full representation at CCSP on the Council and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee including a Leadership Framework that has a focus on succession planning.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All positions for each diocese and congregational schools to have representation on the CCSP are occupied.</li><li>• Constitution reflects CCSP requirements for delegates selected at diocesan level.</li></ul> |
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| <p>5. Develop an annual training/professional learning program to upskill Council and Committee delegates to deliver four presentations to parent bodies: one session per term online (in addition to term meeting): Term 1: CCSP – Who We Are and What We Do; Term 2: Curriculum/Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home; Term 3: Appropriate Parent Engagement (incorporating definitions and standards for engagement and best practice in Catholic schools); Term 4: Catholic Faith.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Profiles of members are lifted and reach of CCSP increased as Council and Committee members and education officers deliver presentations to P&amp;Fs and parents.</li><li>• Council and Committee members are better able to hold conversations with diocesan directors and education officers and other key diocesan members on behalf of parents and carers. Parents can speak with diocesan directors authoritatively and with knowledge, facilitate conversations, and be a conduit for CCSP connections with parents and carers as integral partners in education.</li><li>• Elected Council and Committee members are more invested in their appointment to the Council and can liaise with key stakeholders.</li></ul> |
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| <p>6. Identify a research project that showcases parent engagement best practice, and partner with key stakeholders.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CCSP research data is utilised for future operations and projects, and is shared with all dioceses and congregational schools.</li></ul> |
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## 2: Advocacy

GOAL: To ensure that CCSP is recognised as a Catholic voice that advocates for families who have chosen a Catholic education for their children

### PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

1. CCSP to meet regularly with key state political leaders to provide stakeholder feedback.
2. Strengthen our partnership with CSNSW to ensure awareness of the work both organisations are doing impacting parent engagement.
3. Create a new multilingual and easily accessible website so all parents and carers are aware of the work of CCSP and are able to contact us through the website.
4. Raise profile of CCSP representatives within their member organisation using the website as well as printed material specific for each member organisation.

### MEASURES

- Increase in consultation and provision of feedback to the State Education Minister from families and key stakeholders.
- CCSP provides an open and regular opportunity for CSNSW to provide updates to CCSP via Council and Committee meetings and other avenues as required.
- CCSP takes up all opportunities as a stakeholder in CSNSW projects that are relevant to parents and carers.
- CCSP to attend CSNSW Stakeholder Day..
- Increased traffic on new website, longer browse time from website visitors and increased number of stakeholders who contact CCSP via the website.
- Increase traffic to CCSP website as well as uptake of opportunities and support.





### 3: Support Goal

GOAL: To support families and schools to engage in partnerships that reflect Catholic values and improve student outcomes



#### PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

#### MEASURES

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| 1. Provide a range of accessible high quality engagement and faith-based resources and presentations on the CCSP website online and in-person for parents and families                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increased traffic to CCSP website, download/view of resources and increased participation, use of data gathered through regular parent surveys in Parent Talk</li></ul>   |
| 2. Analyse changing demographics of parents and carers in our dioceses and ensure our services and resources are inclusive and suitable for the changing parent demographic in our schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increased traffic to CCSP website and download/watch of resources in multiple languages</li><li>Measurable data and feedback through regular parent surveys in Parent Talk</li></ul>  |
| 3. Create a <i>My School's Parent Body</i> toolkit in multiple languages and using multimedia on the CCSP website to build family engagement in Catholic school parent bodies.             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Monitor uptake of use of the toolkit by including request for feedback once downloaded from website.</li></ul>  |
| 4. Develop culturally appropriate material to deepen stakeholders' understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee to develop Guide to Sorry Business for diocesan staff and families.</li><li>Provision for all Council and Committee members to participate in cultural awareness professional learning.</li></ul> |
| 5. Disseminate and promote <i>Supporting Diverse Learning Guide Edition 2</i> and <i>Our Catholic Faith: A Handbook for Parents and Families of Students in NSW/ACT Catholic Schools</i> . | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increase in funding benchmarked against other states.</li></ul>   |

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