

The CaSPA Latest News

June 2021

CaSPA Board: Sydney Meeting (24 & 25 May)

The CaSPA Board was delighted to have its first in person meeting since September 2019. It was also a delight to meet new Board members: Michael Lee and Craig Deayton. Clare Nocka was also accepted by the Board as the new Director from S.A. but unfortunately was not able to attend.

The Board was grateful to be invited to the National Celebratory Mass for 200 years of Catholic Education at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney.

During the two day meeting the CaSPA Board was also delighted to meet with the Executive of ACSP (NSW), Sally Egan (NCEC), David de Carvalho (ACARA) and Professor Herb Marsh (ACU).

Coalition of Australian Principals (CAP) Update

- CAP met in Canberra to discuss the use of Broadcast and SchoolTV.
- A decision was made to appoint Andrew Pierpoint as the CAP Chairs for 2021. The position of CAP Chair will be an annual appointment on a rotational basis between the National Principal Associations.
- CAP Statement: <https://www.educationtoday.com.au/news-detail/Research-and-communication-to-support-principals-under-pressure-5294>

AITSL

Many CaSPA members around Australia are currently nominating to be a part of the trials for the Workload Reduction Toolkit being developed by AITSL. This work should be completed in September this year.

National Dialogue – Cultural Competency

CaSPA congratulates AITSL on a fantastic 2 day National Dialogue: “Indigenous Cultural Competency in the Australian Teaching Workforce”. CaSPA also supports the Progress Report (April 2021) and the future work of AITSL in supporting every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student to reach their full potential in a culturally safe learning environment.

ACARA

The CaSPA Board met with David de Carvalho on 25 May. The discussions were based around the three key priorities of ACARA at present:

Australian Curriculum – David expressed his concern regarding some “fake news” about the draft changes and the consultation process which will conclude on 20 July 2021’

NAPLAN Online -Reports will be based on Level Descriptors rather than Level Numbers as in the past. ACARA will be trying to get Reports to schools and parents quicker.

NAPLAN Amendments (My School Website) – All users of the website have to accept conditions of use agreement before they can enter the site. This is designed to restrict the ability to publish league tables. ACARA is also looking at the concept of Learner Profiles.

Principal Occupational Health & Wellbeing

The CaSPA Board met with Professor Herb Marsh on 25 May. Professor Marsh works with the Riley Team which conducts the Principal Occupational Health and Wellbeing Research. In his presentation he outlined 5 areas in which Principals were rated higher than the general population:

- Emotional Demands
- Demands for hiding emotions
- Work / Family conflict
- Burn out
- Stress

In addition, 40% of Principals in all sectors were exposed to physical violence nine times greater than the general population and 22% of Catholic Principals were Red Flagged (high level of concern) in the survey last year.

Professor Marsh also pointed out that during the COVID experiences of 2020 there were some positive outcomes for Principals:

- Acknowledgement of the vital role school leaders play in society.
- Shift in positive attitudes to school leaders.
- Better support from agencies.
- Acknowledged as Essential Workers.

In conclusion, Professor Marsh pointed out four key recommendations:

- Educational Policies need to be based on Educational research not opinions and election cycles.
- Physical and Verbal violence needs to be stopped by introducing new strategies that make reporting easier and allow meetings to not take place in person.
- Professional Learning and Policies developed to for leaders to help them with strategies to deal with conflicts.
- Further research into protective behaviours and strategies for health and wellbeing.

NCEC Update

It was a pleasure for the CaSPA Board to meet with Sally Egan (Deputy Director, NCEC). In our meeting Sally commented on three key areas of focus for NCEC at the moment:

- Faith Formation & Catholic Identity – Catholic schools are no longer just chosen for faith reasons. Catholic schools may need to redefine what Catholic Identity means in the contemporary world.
- Student Outcomes – Numeracy results in NAPLAN are lower than state averages around Australia. A Numeracy Project is being developed by NCEC and Catholic schools need to be clear on what success looks like. Is there professional learning and higher expectations needed?
- Enrolment Crisis – Enrolments are falling across Australia. Fee hikes are problematic and Catholic education needs to raise its quality. Catholic education needs to seek ways to provide mutual support amongst the schools and dioceses to improve student outcomes. How will Catholic education provide quality and capital investment in the future?

CaSPA Directors at National Mass at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney





CaSPA Directors, ACSP (NSW) Executive Meeting with Professor Herb Marsh



CaSPA Directors, ACSP (NSW) Executive meeting with Sally Egan (NCEC) and David de Carvalho (ACARA)

