NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING COMMUNIQUE

The second meeting of our Association’s National Executive (NE) was held earlier this term in Melbourne. The NE wishes to share the following update in relation to the work of ACPPA.

REGIONAL CONNECTIONS UPDATE

In recent years the NE reviewed our engagement with overseas Principal Associations. An outcome of this was that ongoing engagement was affirmed, to support broader understandings of Primary Principalship and Education. Given our budget and value from engagement with various bodies over recent years connections with New Zealand and Singapore were identified as ongoing priorities.

New Zealand
We were joined on the Monday of our meeting by the President of the New Zealand Catholic Primary Principals’ Association, Michael Mokai. Michael shared with us details related to the governance and funding of NZ Catholic Primary Schools, the collaborative structures across schools that are currently being introduced as part of the “Investing in Education Success” initiative of their government and details related to Principal Wellbeing, which is currently also a huge issue in NZ.

While ongoing communication will occur over the coming year, our next face-to-face opportunity to meet will be on the day before the Trans-Tasman Conference in May/June next year, when it has been planned for both national association executives to meet. During the conference there will also be the opportunity to celebrate Mass with our NZ counterparts, followed by a combined Catholic sector function.

Singapore
Details related to the development of a 5 day Catholic Leader’s Study Tour to Singapore in April/May, 2016 were shared. The focus of the tour will be, ‘what can we learn to improve the teaching and learning in our schools? It is planned for the tour to include cultural awareness sessions and input from their Ministry, however the major focus will be on visits to neighbourhood primary schools. Details re the tour will be shared once they are finalised, hopefully by the end of Term 3.

WELLBEING RESEARCH PROJECT

Our Wellbeing Research Project, focusing on the networks Principals have in place, their quality and reality of these, and how engagement with them varies given different circumstances, is continuing. Initial data from the survey was shared with the NE. We are very thankful to all those members of ACPPA who completed the online survey; over 42%. Thank you!

Our next step is to develop the report content and format, with the ongoing support of Camp Australia, for sharing with members in the later part of Term 3.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM (AC)
Feedback was provided to the NE on the work of the Reducing, Refining, Rebalancing the Australian Curriculum: Primary Teachers’ Workshop. Attendees from the Catholic sector were nominated by ACPPA. The work of this group provided input that will be considered alongside that from other targeted organisations. Recommendations from the review will be presented to the ACARA Board, and then the Education Ministers Meeting in the coming month. Details re changes will be shared by ACARA.

We are hopeful that work undertaken as part of this review will make the delivery of the Australian Primary Curriculum more manageable in terms of content and connections and supportive of deep, targeted and purposeful learning in our schools.
Our NE meeting also focused on the following topics:

- Reviewed our **Strategic Plan** and finalised the development of our **2015-16 Annual Plan**. Formatting and editing of these in currently being finalised, and following this they will be made available via the webpage.
- The reality of **Students with a Disability Funding** in Catholic Primary Schools, and our priority on this support moving toward catering for the diversity and real needs in our communities.
- The challenges associated with the **layering of compliance and initiatives** in our schools. This discussion is connected to the current survey being undertaken by the NCEC on this topic.
- Sharing of various approaches in dioceses around Australia to support training associated with and the **management of Critical Incidents**. In a number of instances this sharing highlighted that we currently do not have the same level of focus on this as we had in past. Given this has the possibility to impact on wellbeing in communities this change of priority will be considered as part of our work following the completion of our Wellbeing Research project.

And a couple of final notes:

- An updated **Association Members Information Flyer** is attached for your reference.
- A reminder that the **APPA Conference** will be held in late Term 3 in Hobart. Details and registration can be found at the following link:  [http://appaconference2015.com.au](http://appaconference2015.com.au)

If you have any queries in respect to these matters please contact your State ACPPA delegates or email me at the address below.

Kind regards,

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