

Elim

DEVELOPMENT & RENEWAL PROGRAM
FOR LEADERS IN AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



2018 PROGRAM FOR PRINCIPALS & ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Module 1: July 1–July 6

Module 2: September 9–September 14



Elim was an oasis where the Israelites rested between the Shur and Sin deserts on their way through the wilderness after tasting the bitter waters at Marah (EXODUS 15:27). The 12 springs and 70 palm trees at Elim are symbols of an abundance of new life in the midst of a difficult journey. The program seeks to provide an 'oasis experience' for busy principals and assistant principals.



Sydney Catholic Schools

What is Elim?

Elim is a leadership development offered for experienced Principals and Assistant Principals. Since 1995, over 440 Principals and Assistant Principals from all over Australia have taken part in this unique program to resoundingly positive feedback. It combines engagement with the latest educational thinking, a deepening of the religious dimension of Catholic schools, the opportunity for quiet and reflection and active professional and personal encounter in prayerful community in a residential program.

The program has been structured in such a way that it addresses the Australian Professional Standard for Principals from within the context of Catholic schools. It has a particular focus on the professional practices of 'Leading teaching and learning' and 'Leading self and others'. As a part of this focus, each participant will complete the AITSL 360 Reflection Tool for school leaders, which will inform the shape of the program, and the ways in which individuals choose to engage with it. A key aspect of the 2018 program will be the action learning project between the two modules.

During the program, participants will be involved in input sessions, workshops, structured learning groups and reflection, daily prayer and liturgy and personal quiet time, .

2017 COHORT EVALUATION SNIPPETS

- "Elim is a unique experience that should be shared...a wonderful learning and formation experience to inspire one's journey as a Catholic school leader."
- "This is a highly professional learning experience in leadership. The 360 AITSL tool was helpful in setting goals from my professional development."
- "It is not so much about spanking new ideas as it is about community connectedness and thinking of old ideas in new ways."
- "It encompasses elements of both faith and leadership formation."
- "Keep the amount of prayer, scripture and beautiful poetry. My favourite part."

To the Question: **Would you recommend Elim to others,** the unanimous answer was YES, many adding comments such as "Absolutely" and "Without Reservation."



2017 Elim Cohort
The 2017 cohort included Principals or Assistant Principals from the dioceses of Sydney, Wollongong Maitland-Newcastle, Lismore, Broken Bay and Parramatta.

Elements of the Elim setting



The focus of Elim

THE PROGRAM HAS THREE MAJOR ELEMENTS:

MODULE 1 **Leading authentic learning:**

A focus on the learning we strive for in Catholic schools and the ways in which leaders can facilitate this.

MODULE 2 **The WHO who leads the faith and spiritual life of the school**

An opportunity to formally engage with the ways in which theology and scripture inform our lives as Christians and as Catholic school leaders.

ACTION LEARNING PROJECT

Participants will frame a self-designed action learning project based on their 360 profile and the Module 1 input. They will be asked to implement this in partnership with a mentor between Modules 1 and 2.

Elim Presenters



Module 1

MARK TREADWELL

Mark is a New Zealand-based independent consultant with a focus on creating cultures of excellence in learning and educational leadership.

He is passionate about communicating how we can best prepare all learners for the world they will live, work and play in. Based on the latest research into how the brain learns, Mark has developed a framework that provides educators with a developmental schema for how learning takes place. He has previously spoken at a variety of workshops and international conferences, using a prolific range of resources (Google Mark Treadwell to get a sense of his focus on learning).



Module 1

ANNE GRAHAM

Anne Graham is a Professor of Childhood Studies and the founding director of the Centre for Children & Youth at Southern Cross University. She has been heavily involved in teacher education for many years, and spent time as the head of the School of Education at SCU.

Anne has led over 60 research projects focusing on children's rights and wellbeing. She collaborates closely with the Catholic and Government education systems along with a number of NGO bodies providing services and programs to children. She is Key Institution Director of the Childwatch International Network and author of the Seasons for Growth Program.



Module 2

DANIEL ANG

Daniel Ang is Director of the Office for Evangelisation in the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay. He is a member of the Executive Committee supporting the preparation, celebration and implementation of Plenary Council 2020, and part of the Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research. He has served as Director of Pastoral Planning in the Diocese of Parramatta and supported a number of Australian dioceses and Catholic institutions in the area of strategic planning for mission and evangelisation. Daniel was the keynote speaker at the Sydney Archdiocesan Clergy Conference held in Liverpool in October 2017.



Module 2

FATHER MICHAEL FALLON MSC

Michael spent 10 years teaching in secondary schools, followed by eight years as a University chaplain. He taught scripture at St Paul's National seminary in Kensington for 25 years. Adult development in faith and in spirituality has been Michael's major focus for over 30 years. He has worked extensively with teachers and parish groups in this context. Since 2014 he has been part of the team at St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre at Douglas Park. He is possibly one of the only Scripture scholars in the world to have written a commentary on every book in the Bible.

The hosts and facilitators will be Br Aengus Kavanagh, Sr Leone Pallisier, who have filled these roles since the inception of Elim in 1995, and Mr Kerry Stirling. Each has had many years as a school Principal and system leader. They maintain the flow of the program, with an eye to hospitality and the building of community, and a particular care for prayer and reflection. In this context, Patricia Thomas will also assist this year.

Elim Organising Committee:

Michael Bezzina,
Aengus Kavanagh,
Michael Krawec
Leone Pallisier and
Kerry Stirling.



REKINDLING THE FLAME

At the inception of the program in 1995 an Elim candle was given pride of place in the opening ritual and since then has continued in the centre-piece of the sacred space around which participants have gathered at every Elim for 23 years for daily reflection and prayer. Participants in 2015 noticed the decrepit and, almost, burnt-out condition of the candle. Between Modules, the Broken Bay representatives took the initiative to have a new candle, with Elim logo, fashioned and presented it to the inaugural Elim team. Here, Cathy Cameron is shown presenting the candle watched by the other Broken Bay participants, Chris Burns and Barbara Yee. Also included are Aengus Kavanagh, Leone Pallisier, Michael Bezzina and Sydney Executive Director of Schools, Dr Dan White.

Some practical details...

The program is designed for experienced educational leaders, so a minimum of three years as assistant principal or principal is required. There will be a maximum of 24 participants.

Cost: \$4,800. This includes the 360 AITSL Tool, all meals and accommodation and the program itself (both modules).

Applications will require principal endorsement (and other relevant authority if applicable), including a commitment to support the action learning project between modules.

The venue is the Edmund Rice Retreat and Conference Centre at Mulgoa, in a rural setting some 15 kilometres from Penrith. Accommodation is in single, en suite rooms in comfortable modern style cottages with internet available.

Transport to and from the airport can be organised.

Expressions of interest

If you are interested in finding out more about the program, please contact: Br Aengus Kavanagh
aengusk37@gmail.com
0417 454 924

If you wish to register for the program, please use [this link](#) to the registration form.

Registrations close on Thursday 5 April 2018.

Adherence to registration deadline is imperative to assure sufficient time for the gathering and processing of AITSL Tool data