

## Media Release

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# Catholic Education SA set to expand: 54,000 students by 2027

Catholic Education South Australia has launched a bold expansion strategy that will see student numbers climb over 50,000 for the first time.

*Towards 2027: Expanding Horizons and Deepening Practices – Strategy for Catholic Education South Australia* was launched on Wednesday February 9.

Professor Denis Ralph, Chair of the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools, launched the strategy that will see a significant expansion of Catholic schools over the next five years.

The strategy includes a target to grow enrolments by 2% per annum, with student numbers projected to climb from 48,000 to in excess of 54,000 by the start of the 2027 school year.

The strategy, unveiled on Wednesday night, includes plans to expand a number of existing schools and develop several new campuses.

### Three new schools

- A new Catholic school will be developed in the Northern suburbs
- Another will open in the south of Adelaide
- A new special school facility is also planned (in addition to the two already run by Catholic Education).

### Five campus expansions

- Xavier College, Two Wells, will expand to become a Reception to Year 12 College with more than 1000 students (there are currently close to 400 Reception - Year 8 students at the school)
- Nazareth Catholic College will develop a new campus in Western Adelaide, with building currently underway at Findon Rd to cater for students in Years 11 and 12
- Cardijn College will also undergo a major expansion
  - a senior campus and sports facility is planned for Noarlunga Downs

- the College’s Galilee Aldinga campus will expand from Primary into Middle and Senior schooling.
- A further campus expansion is planned in western Adelaide within the next five years.

The Towards 2027 strategy also includes plans to open another two early learning centres and offer additional preschool places.

“We expect 2022 to 2027 to be years of significant growth and expansion for Catholic Education SA,” said Professor Ralph.

“From humble beginnings in 1844 in a small chapel on Pirie Street, Catholic Education now has schools, colleges and centres spread across the length and breadth of South Australia with 103 schools and colleges located on 118 campuses with nearly 9,000 staff.”

Alongside the commitment to expansion, comes a commitment to quality teaching and learning.

Dr Neil McGoran, Director of Catholic Education South Australia, said “Our community will continue to see excellent Catholic schools making a positive contribution to the lives of children and young people.

“Our school and early learning centre communities will continue to be recognised as inclusive and accessible to all children and families in ways that reflect our Catholic identity and culture.

“By 2027, we expect that 200 Catholic school teachers, 5% of our total teacher workforce, will have achieved AITSL certification as Highly Accomplished or Lead Teachers, the highest proportion in Australia.

“We are also committed to strengthening NAPLAN results and SACE achievements across all Catholic schools, and ensuring that our students continue to thrive in an environment that brings out their very best.”

The announcement comes as two new schools – Compass Catholic Community at Davoren Park and St Francis of Assisi College at Renmark - welcomed their first cohort of students at the commencement of Term 1. Four regional schools at Wallaroo, Peterborough, Clare and Murray Bridge also expanded to offer Year 8 this year and will offer Year 9 from 2023.

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