

## Media Release

September 19 2022

### **50,000<sup>th</sup> student enrolls in Catholic school**

Catholic Education South Australia has undertaken its August enrolment census and has surpassed 50,000 students for the first time.

Some of that growth stems from the new opportunities in regional South Australia for students to access a Catholic Education.

There are a number of initiatives underpinning this growth including:

- A commitment to making Catholic Education more affordable (fee reductions and fee freeze)
- The midyear intake (1299 students commenced Reception in Catholic Schools in July this year)
- Scholarships for young people in care (278 students since the program was introduced in 2020)
- An increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Catholic schools (Up 38% since 2015)
- Opening of the Compass Catholic community – for those aged 17 – 24 who have not thrived in mainstream schooling (67 young people enrolled in 2022)
- Opening of new campuses and school expansions (5 new campuses have opened since 2020)

### **Comments from Nichii Mardon, Director, Catholic Education – Diocese of Port Pirie**

It is wonderful to see the recent growth in enrolments across Catholic Education particularly in regional areas.

Our growth stems from a commitment to making Catholic education more affordable, inclusive, and accessible to all.

We have opened new campuses in Two Wells and Renmark and given families in those regions new opportunities to access a Catholic Education.

Four other former primary schools have expanded from Reception to Year 7 to offer Year 8 in 2022 and will add Year 9 in 2023:

- St Mary MacKillop School, Wallaroo
- St Joseph's School, Peterborough
- St Joseph's School, Clare
- St Joseph's School, Murray Bridge.

Most of all, we are committed to offering high quality learning and wellbeing outcomes for students, embedded within a culture of care and respect for the uniqueness and value of every young person. This has been reflected in improvements in students' achievement and growth across schools. Students and families are telling us this has been noticed and appreciated.

**All of our schools would welcome the opportunity to make further comment.**

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