

James Merlino appointed as Chair of Victorian Catholic Education Authority

The Victorian Catholic Education Authority (VCEA), the renewed peak body for Catholic education in Victoria, has appointed James Merlino as its inaugural chair.

The VCEA was previously the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV). In 2021 the Bishop-members of CECV commissioned an independent review into its role, governance and operations.

An extensive renewal process followed, which culminated in an Annual General Meeting yesterday, when the Archbishop of Melbourne and the Bishops of Ballarat, Sale and Sandhurst accepted VCEA's new constitution, company name and the appointment of Mr James Merlino, Ms Lynn Glover and Mr Damian Murphy as company directors with Mr Merlino appointed as chair.

"The AGM was an important milestone in establishing the Victorian Catholic Education Authority as the peak body for Catholic Education in the state and it is a privilege to be appointed as the inaugural chair," Mr Merlino said.

"I'd like to thank our CEO Jim Miles for his work to date and I look forward to working with the VCEA team. The VCEA will build on the excellent work of the CECV, and in partnership with Catholic school proprietors, help Catholic schools continue to flourish and provide an outstanding service to the Victorian community."

"Under the leadership of the new Board, the VCEA will build on a successful renewal process and move into the next phase providing exceptional support and leadership to school proprietors, students, parents, teachers and staff across all Victorian Catholic school communities," Mr Miles said.

Mr Merlino served as Deputy Premier of Victoria and Minister for Education from December 2014 until June 2022 in the first and second Andrews Ministry. He has deep knowledge of the Education sector and Victoria as well as a deep connection to his Catholic faith.

Ms Glover has served as a Senior Executive within the Victorian Public Service across various government departments and agencies with more than 40 years of experience including as CEO of the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority.

Mr Murphy is a proven senior executive with over 35 years of leadership and management experience at the highest levels in Australia. He brings extensive risk management and governance expertise from his career as a consultant and Chief Risk Officer, Wealth at the NAB.

There are currently almost 213,000 students enrolled in 500 Catholic schools across Victoria, with 28,000 teachers and staff.

VCEA serves as the peak body for Catholic education in Victoria. It represents and advocates on behalf of Catholic education in Victoria on state and national matters, acts as the approved authority for Catholic schools in Victoria, reviews and assures compliance by Catholic education with school registration requirements, and undertakes a range of other activities to support Catholic education in Victoria.

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