

PROFILE



CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS AUSTRALIA

Catholic School Parents Australia is recognised as the national body representing and advocating for the parents and guardians of over 764,190 children and young people who attend the 1737 Catholic schools across Australia. CSPA works in collaboration and consultation with the National Catholic Education Commission and is recognised by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference through the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education.

INTRODUCTION

WHO MAKES UP CSPA?

Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA) was formed in late 2013 by the State and Territory* Catholic school parent bodies of:

- Australian Capital Territory
- New South Wales
- Queensland
- South Australia
- Tasmania
- Victoria and
- Western Australia



Karl Rodrigues
Chair



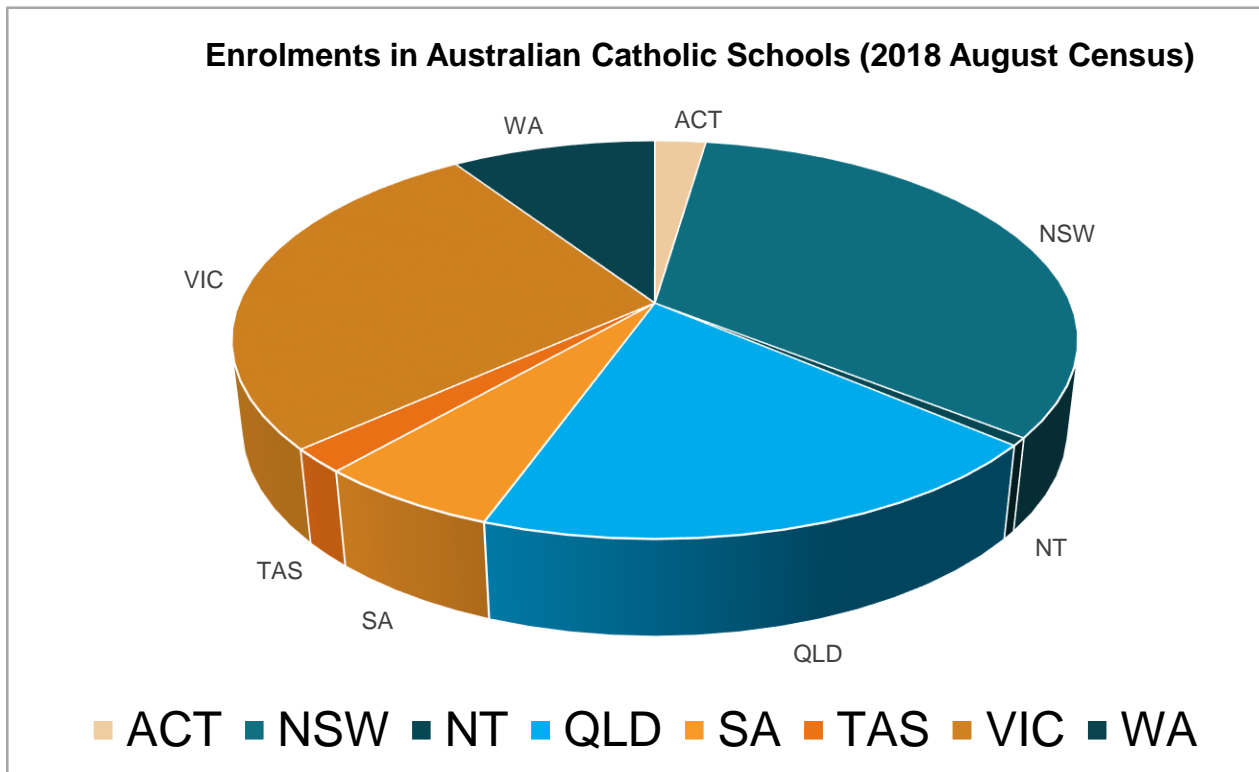
Carmel Nash OAM
Deputy Chair

[*Northern Territory intends to join CSPA].

MEMBERSHIP OF CATHOLIC SACHOOL PARENTS AUSTRALIA

Enrolments in Catholic schools by State and Territory (2018 August Census)

NT	NSW	ACT	QLD	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	AUSTRALIA
4794	254622	17792	146924	208448	14875	45448	71287	764190
0.65%	33.38%	2.32%	19.10%	27.23%	1.96%	5.97%	9.40%	100%



WHAT DOES CSPA DO?

Catholic School Parents Australia:

- Advocates for families with children and young people in all Australian Catholic schools;
- Represents these families to education authorities such as NCEC and ACARA and state and federal governments;
- Supports and provides national leadership to the State and Territory Catholic parent bodies who work with Catholic schools;
- Consults and collaborates with the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC), the Australian Catholic Primary Principals Association (ACPPA) and Catholic Secondary Principals Australia (CaSPA) in all matters pertaining to parents as partners in Catholic education; and
- Works with such agencies as the Australian government, the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) and various universities to support, explore and promote Parent Engagement as an influence on student learning and wellbeing.

CSPA's membership is made up of the Catholic school parent associations of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania and the ACT. In turn, each member parent body plays an advocacy role for all parents and carers through their Parents & Friends associations at the local school level. CSPA Member State and ACT authorities also work in close liaison with their Catholic education authorities at diocesan level and with their State/Territory Catholic Education Commissions.

WORK OF CSPA IN PARENT ENGAGEMENT IN STUDENT LEARNING & WELLBEING.

CSPA has become recognised as the national parent body which is investigating contemporary strategies around the implementation of parent engagement in schools. For example, CSPA's Deputy Chair has been instrumental in establishing Dr Debbie Pushor (Canada) and Dr Karen Mapp (Harvard) as influential voices in many schools and educational jurisdictions across Australia.

The DET funded national, cross-sectoral, P-12 Parent Engagement Project has added significantly around this Parent Engagement space. In September 2019, Minister Tehan launched the CSPA Parent Engagement Tool Kit (PETK) which has been generated from the project's extensive research that has seen collaborative partnerships between CSPA, the University of Southern Queensland and ARACY. The PETK has been made available to all schools Australia wide through the *Gearing up for parent engagement* website, which is available at

www.parentengagementcspa.edu.au

A new project underway will generate parent engagement case studies and these will be added to the website in early 2020.

