

REPORT FROM PRINCIPALS

Representing the PAVCSS on committee(s) 2013

1. Name of Committee: **Enhancing Catholic School Identity Project Steering Committee**
2. Name of Person Submitting this Response: **Karen Jebb**
3. Number of Meetings called over the Year: **Five**
4. Number of Meetings attended over the Year: **Four**
5. Major Issues Discussed:

A meeting was held with representatives of ACU and CTC, to discuss tertiary formation and the ECSI project, with the potential for mutual enrichment. Discussion points included: strategic mission and direction; the importance of theological formation; a look at the layers of responsibility in educational institutions and realization of their full potential; the training of teachers; and a framework for short to long term goals.

Prof Didier Pollefeyt and Mr. Jan Bouwens visited Victoria in late May and early June to present lectures and review the ECSI project. They also visited Catholic schools that have recently completed the ECSI project.

The Committee reviewed what worked well and what questions rose out of the current KU Leuven visit. Points discussed included:

What worked well?

- Clarity and Depth of Presentations
- Hermeneutical space
- Qualitative Research Visit to School
- Interpreting results through lens of profiles - illuminating
- Learning hermeneutically reflection - REC & T/L Group/ Inquiry Approach
- Meeting with ACU and CTC
- People being reignited with passion. The visits generate excitement.
- Other dioceses from around Australia being present
- CECV Board meeting Schools Report – ways that we could do better.
- Dialogical approach conversation
- Methodology - Values education methodology: a better understanding.
- Reductionist approach.
- Strong underlining of the life of Prayer: call for a spirituality of Dialogue in this process

Questions

- Values education methodology – requires a better understanding.
- 2012 aggregated data - are we at a status quo?
- How do we develop a spirituality of recontextualisation?
- Naming of hermeneutical space: how do we respond?
- Can we obtain synonyms to explain 'hermeneutical space'?
- How do we move forward with reflection in schools?
- How does this work within a NECSIP Framework?

6. Major Decisions Taken:

Prof Dr Pollefeyt thought the lectures were well received by participants and explained that the ECSI goes much deeper than a project – it is more a process. In light of visit, Prof Didier Pollefeyt foresaw the following challenges:

1. Implementation - from interpreting graphs to planning school visits. He suggested that Mr Jan Bouwens create a protocol as to how best to proceed with School Follow Up Visits, and proposed the development of a video.

The Committee agreed that the development of a video by KU Leuven be pursued.

2. The development of automated reports is a challenge because of limitation of time and resources and the competing priorities.

The automation of reports was agreed to by the Committee with the proviso that the individuality of schools was preserved. Trends in data could also be determined as a result of automated reports. A report from K U Leuven indicating the extra time needed to complete the automation is required.

Action: On receipt of a report from KU Leuven, advice is to be prepared for presentation to the Board, indicating extension of time required to facilitate automated reports, and proposing a variation of the contract.

3. There is a need to include sacramentology in our work due to the importance of this area in Catholic schools in Australia.

The Committee thought that further discussion is required on the relationship between parishes and primary schools. It was suggested that further conversation with Professor Didier Pollefeyt in regard to Sacramentology in our work be facilitated via Skype, with a meeting that could be attended by ECSI Committee Members and Diocesan teams proposed as a possibility. It was also suggested that a focus on this area of study in the course content of programs for teachers in Catholic schools could be the subject of a formal request to tertiary institutions.

4. There is a major gap in the data in the area of young adults at university and undertaking teaching training.

The Committee proposed that a formal request be addressed to the Dean of Education at Australian Catholic University (ACU) and to the Master at Catholic Theological College (CTC), regarding the participation of students at both institutions in the completion of the surveys. In addition, it was suggested that the matter be placed on the agenda at the meeting with representatives of ACU/CTC, and that the planned request be reported.

5. Questions around meta analysis: with the huge amount of data a range of questions could be explored, e.g. What is the impact of diversity on Catholic schools? The social and economic impacts on Catholic school identity?

A proposal to explore the possible correlations between the ECSIP data and the Insight SRC data was raised as another possibility that had emerged since the visit. However, the Committee felt that, at this stage, other matters were more pressing. The importance of respecting the integrity and independence of different surveys was also discussed.

Due to time constraints, it was agreed to discuss the remaining questions at the next ECSI Committee Meeting on 19 November 2013.

6. Longitudinal impact of data
7. Relationship between Religious Education and Catholic identity. We are only starting to discover the Hermeneutical Model.
8. Relationship between parishes and schools – there is potential to connect with the research
9. ECSIP Website and ICON Project.
10. A 2015 Visit.
11. Slight changes to Questionnaire. Suggestions have been made on ways to improve the surveys (eg. changing the words 'reading the Bible' to 'using scripture').

NEXT STEPS

- The Committee agreed on the importance of managing a transitional phase of the ECSI project. The current workload and balance of focus between report writing and automation were identified as key issues. It was proposed that shorter reports are a way forward to allow for automation.
- A clear development of operational processes, and local protocols re 'Help Desk' matters is required. Implications are to be discussed further at the next ECSIP Committee Meeting.
- Timeline needs to be extended to enable completion of the automation process. Prof Didier Pollefeyt and Mr Jan Bouwens are to scope future directions.
- Transition Phase needs to be strategic about moving forward within the relationship with KU Leuven.
- ECSIP Research timeline is currently being negotiated and scoped. Preparation for transition needs to be a collaboration between KU Leuven and ECSIP Committee.

Staff Member at KU Leuven

The Committee was informed that Mr. John Reddan from CEOM has been selected to complete and participate in a 3 month study tour at KU Leuven during Sept-Dec 2013 and that Mr Elder had sent a letter to the other Victorian Directors of Catholic Education proposing the possibility of a second representative.

International Speaker Series Presentation – Power Points and video are available on CEVN and CECV websites.

Further Studies Meeting with ACU, CTC and CEOM to discuss Catholic Identity Project and Tertiary Pathways. This is a follow up meeting to expand on matters discussed at the Further Studies meeting held on 31 May 2013.

Karen Jebb
SIGNED

1 November 2013
DATED