



Diocese of Lismore
Office of the Bishop
Most Rev Geoffrey H. Jarrett
P O Box 1, Lismore, NSW 2480
Telephone: (02) 6622 0407
FAX: (02) 6621 9960

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BISHOP'S STATEMENT

The Administration of the Catholic Parish Schools of the Diocese of Lismore

The Catholic Education Office was established in 1970 to co-ordinate the operation and funding of parish schools in the Diocese.

Over time the rôle of this office has significantly expanded to include educational and statutory compliance, curriculum support and operational supervision.

With the Commonwealth funded *Building the Education Revolution* program every Catholic school in the Diocese received funding for capital works, in varying measure. This program, with universal satisfaction, has successfully addressed the inadequacies of many Catholic school facilities.

I now wish to announce two important new directions for the administration of our parish schools considered as a diocesan 'system.'

Firstly, to clarify and to accurately describe the rôle of the Catholic Education Office, it will now be known as the **Catholic Schools Office**. Likewise, the director will now have the title of **Director for Catholic Schools**. In addition, the Diocesan Education Board will be reconstituted as the **Catholic Schools Council**. This will be the subject of a separate publication to be released shortly.

Secondly, for some years the Catholic Schools Office has operated disjunctively on two sites in Lismore. This has presented logistical and management difficulties.

I am now pleased to announce that, after an extensive investigation, and subject to the appropriate statutory approvals, the Catholic Schools Office as a complete entity is to relocate to the former Presentation Convent in Dawson Street, Lismore.

In recognition of over one hundred years of service to the Diocese and to Catholic education by the Presentation Sisters, this building will be known henceforth as **Presentation House**.

The consolidation of the existing two sites into one at Presentation House will enable all Lismore-based staff of the Catholic Schools Office to be located in one building. The building will be upgraded to modern standards and functionality. This will also give new and permanent life to one of the most significant buildings in Lismore's Catholic heritage. Its proximity to Saint Carthage's Cathedral adds weight to and reflects the importance of the work conducted by this office as an integral part of the Diocesan Curia.

The renovation of Presentation House will be self-funded by the Diocese. No Commonwealth or State Government funds will be used on the project. Furthermore, no existing educational program or staffing allocation will be affected by the project.

I will be grateful for the support and prayers of the clergy, religious and people of the Diocese as our Catholic school education continues its response to the call of Jesus Christ our Lord to proclaim His Gospel, and to teach anew in our own time the Catholic Faith received from the Apostles.

ENDS