

19 October 2022

Frequently Asked Questions regarding the update on the CECV Review

1. What is today's announcement?

Last year the Archbishop of Melbourne and the Bishops of Ballarat, Sale and Sandhurst initiated a review into the role, governance and operations of the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV).

Today the Bishop-members of CECV have released their response to the material aspects of the review, which includes two priority items to be actioned immediately.

A key recommendation from the review is that CECV establishes its own resourced secretariat; another is that the Executive Director roles of CECV and MACS be separated. Accordingly, at the end of October, Jim Miles, who is currently Executive Director of both CECV and MACS, will step out of his role at MACS to focus solely on leading CECV.

During 2023, CECV will establish its own separate secretariat and reduce its reliance on the support Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) via the current service level agreement.

2. Why are the CECV and MACS separating?

The separation is a natural step change given the very different, yet important roles each organisation plays in Catholic education across Victoria.

By adopting and implementing these two recommendations both organisations will benefit, and it will assist in achieving their respective missions. CECV will benefit from dedicated resourcing that will be able to focus on the significant role the organisation has as the peak body for Catholic education in Victoria.

MACS will benefit from its staff being able to dedicate themselves solely to the work they perform in managing and supporting their almost 300 schools. It will also improve governance structures across each organisation and make lines of accountability and roles within CECV and MACS clearer for external stakeholders.

The overriding objective of this process for both organisations will be to establish a robust and sustainable CECV, while at the same time minimise the disruption to MACS.

Finally, the growing regulatory demands on CECV means that a separate Executive Director is required for each organisation.

3. When is this happening?

Jim Miles will finish his MACS role to focus solely on his role at CECV at the end of October.

CECV establishing its own secretariat will be a complex undertaking, requiring resources currently shared across CECV and MACS to be separated, and will take diligent planning and some time. In the coming months we will commence consultation with staff as we implement the separation.

Our intention is to begin by transitioning those teams that work principally on CECV and this will be worked through in consultation with these colleagues. Following this, we will work towards transitioning teams that work on both CECV and MACS, where a clear delineation of roles between the two organisations will be worked on.

There will be a rigorous and planned process to separate the organisations, and this will be overseen by Jim Miles and the CECV Implementation Committee (CIC), that will be established in the coming months, in very close consultation with the MACS Board and Executive team.

Initially, those teams that work principally on CECV will be transitioned and following this, we will work towards identifying and transitioning teams that work on both CECV and MACS and begin to delineate roles between the two organisations.

4. Haven't CECV and MACS always been two separate organisations?

Yes. The Archbishop of Melbourne and the Bishops of Ballarat, Sandhurst and Sale established the CECV in 1973 to support and advance Catholic education in Victoria. Over time, CECV's role expanded to become the approved government funding authority for Catholic schools in the state of Victoria. The CECV was restructured and incorporated on 23 May 2006.

While the membership, board and committees of CECV have always been separate from MACS and its predecessor bodies, given the size of the Archdiocese of Melbourne relative to Catholic education in Victoria (by number of schools and students), MACS has provided secretariat and other business support resources to CECV via a Service Level Agreement (SLA) and the Executive Director of MACS has served as the Executive Director of the CECV.

MACS does not perform the role of CECV and both organisations serve very different purposes. CECV acts as the overarching strategic planning, funding and policy-making body for the Catholic school system in Victoria, whereas MACS is responsible for the governance and operation of around 300 schools within the archdiocese of Melbourne. The role and purpose of each organisation always remained separate.

Under the SLA MACS provides staff, including some staff who fulfil dual roles for both MACS and CECV.

5. What will the CECV secretariat look like in terms of composition when created?

This is still to be determined. In the short term, the existing CECV Board and Committee structure will maintain responsibility for governance of CECV, and MACS will continue to provide secretariat resources under the existing service level agreement as we work through the transition process.

Jim will work closely with the Bishop-members to implement their Response and Directions, and in doing so will design and plan the implantation of the new operating model for CECV. This will be overseen by a CECV Implementation Committee (CIC) that will be established in the coming months and will report to the Bishops regularly. This will be done in close consultation with the MACS Board and Executive team.

6. Will all this extra resourcing cost more money?

For CECV to be properly resourced it must be properly funded. Any additional costs will be offset by the additional benefit of appropriate governance and resourcing that will benefit the Catholic school system directly.

One of the focuses of a strengthened CECV governance model and secretariat will be to ensure non-school costs are efficient.

Additionally, having staff focus on achieving the mission of one organisation rather than two will enable improved focus, providing greater value to each organisation and its stakeholders.

7. How will the CECV operate in the meantime?

The operation of CECV is unchanged in the short term. The existing Board and Committee structure will remain in place, with MACS providing secretariat resources.

During 2023, CECV will establish its own dedicated secretariat. This will require staff and processes currently shared across CECV and MACS to be separated. This will be a complex undertaking, requiring MACS and CECV to work closely together.

The overriding objective for both organisations will be to establish a robust and sustainable CECV, while at the same time minimising the disruption to MACS. The separation will be overseen by the CECV Implementation Committee (CIC), MACS Board and Executive team.

Our intention is to begin the transition with those teams that work principally on CECV matters. Following this, we will transition teams that work across both CECV and MACS, which will require more delineated roles to be determined for these teams. This will all be worked through in careful consultation with these colleagues.

8. Why is there such focus on these two recommendations and not on the others within the Response and Directions?

These two recommendations are priorities for action as the Bishops continue to work through the remaining recommendations. Importantly, these two recommendations form the basis from which the rest will flow and enable greater oversight to occur as they are implemented.

Having Jim Miles focused solely on the CECV ED role will enable him to dedicate himself to the significant task of leading CECV's business as usual activity, as well as leading the separation and establishing a strengthened CECV governance model and secretariat.

The establishment of the secretariat will take time and will be a complex undertaking requiring MACS and CECV to work closely together. The overriding objective for both organisations will be to establish a robust and sustainable CECV, while at the same time minimising the disruption to MACS.

9. What about the other recommendations? Why haven't they been released and when will we be able to learn about them?

The Response and Directions is the Bishop-members response to the material aspects of the report.

It's our intention for the final panel report to be released following the CIC's consideration of the entire report.

10. When will the CECV Implementation Committee be created and who is likely to form part of this?

The CIC will be established in the coming months by the Bishop-members. The composition of the committee is still being considered.

11. Why is CRMV becoming a company member of CECV?

RI/MPJP schools have a rich tradition and history in Victoria and are a critical part of the Victorian Catholic school system.

Given that CECV represents all Victorian Catholic schools, the Bishop-members concluded that it was appropriate that RI/MPJP schools have a direct and permanent engagement as a member of CECV alongside the respective Bishop-members of each diocese.

As CRMV is the peak body for RI/MPJP schools in Victoria, it was concluded that it should be the organisation that nominates a member for CECV.

12. Why will a new skills-based Board be created? How will members of the Board be selected?

The reason for moving from a representative Board to a skills-based one is to remove issues associated with conflict of interest and to strengthen the governance of CECV. Members of the Board will possess appropriate skills and experiences to advance the effectiveness of the Board.

CECV's members, including a CRMV nominee, will select Board members, including the Chair.

Diversity will be a crucial factor in this selection process to ensure the Board is able to properly understand and consider the breadth of stakeholders, geographies and issues that CECV engages in.

13. What will the role of the CECV Consultation Committee be? How will members be selected?

The CECV Consultation Committee will assist the CECV Board by serving as an advisory body that enables the Diocesan Catholic education companies and RI/MPJP entities (via CRMV) to consult collegially with CECV in relation to any matters concerning Catholic school education in Victoria.

Members will include the Chair of CECV, the Executive Director of CECV, Executive Directors of each of MACS, DOBCCEL, DOSCEL, and CESL, and a nominated representative of CRMV.