

## Respectful Relationships Education in the Diocese of Ballarat

Principals would be aware of the recent media attention given to the area of consent education in schools and Minister Merlino's announcement that from Term 2 this year, the teaching of consent will be mandatory in all government schools in an age-appropriate way.

The Victorian government has also indicated that the Respectful Relationships initiative will directly address the issue of consent. The Department of Education and Training (DET) has announced funding for an Expression of Interest process for Catholic schools to participate in the RRE initiative as a ['Partner school'](#).

New Partner schools will receive \$4000 funding for one year to implement a whole-school approach to respectful relationships education. Schools will also be able to access professional learning and support through specialist DET regional RRE staff and local schools clusters.

The RRE ['Partner school' Expression of Interest](#) is now open via DET's website and closes on **Monday 31 May 2021**.

In recognizing DOBCEL's support of this initiative, it is important to note that "consent education" aligns strongly within our Catholic anthropology and finds expression in different forms in a number of existing diocesan initiatives.

Respectful Relationships has indeed been a strong staple of the Wellbeing aspect of schooling across the diocese. School personnel have undertaken Respectful Relationships training in the past and are now incorporating other models such as ReLATE, SWPBS and/or Zones of Regulation into Wellbeing to address student and staff wellbeing as a whole school community approach.

The *Fullness of Life for All* Relationships and Sexuality Scope and Sequence that accompany the DOBCEL Relationships and Sexuality Policy is presently being audited to identify and highlight for teachers where consent education exists within the resource.

Further information or enquiries on these or the DET Partner School initiative can be forwarded to [Tony Perkins](#) or [Liz McIntyre](#).