



28 August 2024

Professor Elizabeth Labone
Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Catholic Education Authority,
E: elabone@vcea.catholic.edu.au

Dear Elizabeth,

During August to October 2024, Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA), in collaboration with the University of New England (UNE), will be conducting a research study titled:

CSPA 2024 Parent Survey on Student Wellbeing and Learning

This CSPA national survey aims to collect evidence from a broad sample of parents/carers of children attending Catholic schools in Australia about existing and emerging affirmations and/or challenges they may have in relation to their child/children's wellbeing and learning.

The study has received approval from the Human Research Ethics Committee at the University of New England [HE24 - 113](#). The project team comprises Professor Sue Saltmarsh, UNE; Patricia Roseman, CSPA; Andrea Obeyesekere, CSPA and Siobhan Allen, CSPA.

The survey has funding and support from the Australian Government Department of Education, and upon release of the results, CSPA will report to the Minister for Education and Department representatives on the findings. Survey results will therefore have a direct pathway to education policy experts and government. A report on the findings from the survey will also be provided to each State/Territory Director and Diocesan Directors of Catholic education for their information and use.

As you may already be aware, CSPA is the national peak body representing the interests of Catholic School parents and is facilitating evidence-based ways of building positive relationships between home and school. This study follows on from the 2022 survey and comprises a voluntary, anonymous, online questionnaire that seeks perspectives of parents/carers of a child enrolled in Australian Catholic schools.

We are writing both to inform you about the project, and to request your assistance in providing Catholic schools in Victoria with a request that the schools circulate this survey to parents/carers in their school community. The notice reads as follows:

National Parent Survey

The CSPA 2024 Parent Survey on Student Wellbeing and Learning is seeking your perspective as parents/carers of children who attend a Catholic School in Australia.

You are invited to share your views on existing and emerging affirmations and/or challenges in relation to your child/children's wellbeing and learning. Please consider completing this anonymous, confidential, and completely voluntary online survey.

More information about the study, how to participate, and how to have questions answered, can be found [here](#).

Thank you for your interest.

The notice can be circulated by schools through their normal communication channels to **all** parents/carers in their school community. (See Attachments A and B)

Please note that parent/carer participation in the study is voluntary, and participant data will be treated confidentially. Data will be securely stored in password protected files accessible only to the research team, and participants and schools will not be identified in any reports or publications arising from the study. As the survey is accessed online and completed anonymously, it will not be possible to withdraw once the survey has been submitted. Names and locations of participants and their affiliated schools will not be known at any point in the study.

The study has been assessed as being low-risk and should take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.

The UNE-based Principal Investigator on the project, Professor Sue Saltmarsh is a long-standing collaborator with CSPA and is experienced in conducting research with parents and school personnel. Over recent years, CSPA has been active in collecting evidence from principals and parents to generate resources presented through the [Gearing up for parent engagement website](#) - a vital resource which is available to all schools across Australia.

If you are interested in looking at the 2022 CSPA Parent Views Survey, you can access it [here](#).

In the meantime, should you have any questions about the study, please feel free to contact a member of the project team: Professor Sue Saltmarsh E: ssaltmar@une.edu.au | T: 02 6773 1132 or Patricia Roseman E: admin@cspa.catholic.edu.au | T: 07 3905 9734.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project and we look forward to sharing the results of the survey in due course.

With kind regards,



Andrea Obeyesekere

Chair

for and on behalf of the Project Team

Attachments A: Parent Survey Flyer
 B: Newsletter Text

Project Team

Sue Saltmarsh – Professor and Assoc/Dean Research, Faculty of Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences and Education, University of New England

Patricia Roseman – Executive Officer, Catholic School Parents Australia

Andrea Obeyesekere – Chair, Catholic School Parents Australia

Siobhan Allen – Deputy Chair, Catholic School Parents Australia