



Lumen Christi College Catholic Schools Advisory Council Annual General Meeting

Chairman's Report 2021

It is a pleasure to present what is technically the inaugural Lumen Christi College Catholic School Advisory Council Chair's report, signifying the end of a successful year for the College under the revised governance structure.

The change to an Advisory Council, from the previous College Board structure has been a steady process, supported by a range of clarifying engagements with Catholic Education WA and the release of new terms of reference for 2022 and beyond.

In terms of Lumen Christi College's governance and operational outcomes - there have been no noticeable impacts outside the successful transitions and changed processes that have occurred thus far. In terms of impacts on education, there have also been no identifiable negatives, as the changes create greater support and resources, and do not impact on the curriculum. In the longer term, the changes to the CEWA funding structures stand to benefit the College and how it is classified.

The start of the 2021 College year was once again clouded with a level of uncertainty due to the ongoing global pandemic, but the forethought, planning and engagement of the College's leadership and teaching staff minimised any potential for detrimental impacts.

The challenges experienced in 2020 helped the College to identify and adapt to new ways of engagement and this flowed into 2021 enabling students, families and supporters to come together as much as possible to celebrate as a Lumen Community.

Once again, there can only be praise and gratitude expressed to all involved in delivering the needed facilities, equipment and supervision to support the necessary adaption by students and their families.

As a parent, 2021 felt far smoother and consistent than the turbulent and resilience-challenging 2020. This was without doubt due to an enormous amount of work and juggling behind the scenes by staff across the College. This stability in an uncertain world, further cemented the College as a Light for the community and enabled many of the activities, engagements, excursions and gatherings that were not possible in 2020 to return throughout the year.

Looking back across the school year, a COVID-19 lockdown to kick things off was only a slight hiccup considering all that has been achieved.

The transformation of the College Library into the Michael Devine Discovery Centre reflected the changes from traditional printed books to technology-based formats and created a central location for interaction and support.

The College's Twilight Community Mass to welcome in the start of the new school year, was a great example of the College's commitment to delivering traditional activities, but in new ways that could still bring the College community together and be Covid-safe.

This continued throughout the year and the large number of activities created a sense of normality that students in other regions of Australia would only have dreamt of for much of the year – including the College swimming carnival, activity days, Grease the Musical, Harmony Day,

Reconciliation Week, outdoor education activities, interschool sporting carnivals, Try a Trade experiences, dance showcases, Lumen Week, art exhibitions, dramatic performances, the annual music concert, NAIDOC week activities and inclusive sports events. These activities don't just happen, and recognition must be given to the staff and students who have taken the extra steps to bring such an eclectic range of activities to life in these Covid times.

The College's success in the CEWA Quality Catholic Education Awards, in the Catholic Identity category, was positive acknowledgement of the Christ-centred leadership and focus on inspiring all in the school community to actively live the Gospel. Coupled with the continued focus on developing the professional skills and opportunities for Lumen's teaching staff, while developing pedagogical learning pathways for students, the College is continuing its mission to ensure no student is left behind, that each has the opportunity to grow and flourish, and that the College is helping to form resilient young women and men.

The outlook for the school's future student numbers is very pleasing, with College Tours running at capacity throughout 2021 and future enrolments out numbering the levels of previous years. Coupled with changes to future funding models, Lumen Christi College is positioned to provide strong, well-resourced and engaging educational opportunities for the years ahead.

While there have been a range of governance structures and processes adjusted throughout the year, the College has been able to maintain a strong operational and financial position while being able to support families across the College community. This also meant that the commitment that no student would miss out on a Catholic Education due to the financial impacts of COVID-19 was again able to be upheld.

Pleasingly, this work has enabled the Advisory Council to endorse that Lumen Christi's fees and charges for 2022 to be kept in line with those of 2021, without any forecast detriment to educational offerings and outcomes of the College.

I would like to pay tribute to Advisory Council member Annette Nicolson. After many years of dedication to the College on its Board and Advisory Council as a community representative, Annette this year retired from the Council leaving in her wake a proud legacy of stability and pastoral guidance over many years.

Jenni Skyner's time on the Council has also come to an end after six years of service that included time as Treasurer, under the previous Board structure. Jenni has helped guide Lumen through growth and development, positioning the College for a sound future.

On behalf of the Advisory Council and the broader College Community, I extend our thanks to Annette and Jenni for their engagement, support and commitment to the College.

This report is my last as Advisory Council Chair and as a Board/Council member. I'd like to thank my fellow Council, and previously College Board, members for their engagement, diversity of thinking and commitment to Lumen Christi.

The variety of perspectives they have brought from across the community has enabled thorough consideration and inputs into the College's future. Thank you also to Karen Prendergast and the College's leadership, teaching and administration teams for your continued support, guidance and interaction with all Advisory Council members throughout the year.

Lastly, I wish the entire Lumen Christi College community the very best for 2022 and beyond, and that the Light of Christ shines on all that you do.

Stuart McLagan

College Advisory Council Chair