

# WARD d'HOUEt EDUCATION BOARD CHARTER

## PREAMBLE

Education of young people was central to the ministries of Marie Madeleine d'Houet and Mary Ward. When secular education was established in Australia by the Education Act of 1875, many religious orders were invited by the hierarchy to establish Catholic Schools across Australia. Both the IBVM and the FCJ sisters with their strong tradition of commitment to education responded to this need.

The context of education is ever changing and the establishment of the Education Board, a collaboration between these two Institutes of sisters, represents the beginning of a new phase in school governance for both the FCJ and the Loreto schools in Australia. The decline in the number of sisters and the emergence of a highly educated Catholic community mean that the stewardship of the schools can now be further devolved to these committed lay collaborators.

IBVM and FCJ sisters wish their schools to maintain their independence, their particular charism, including their shared Ignatian Spirituality, their rich heritage and their national and international connections. The establishment of this Education Board provides a means whereby the leadership of the two Institutes can fulfil both their civil and canonical responsibilities for the stewardship and governance of the schools by drawing on the expertise and skills of a competent, advisory body. The existence of this Education Board gives strength, support and security to each of the schools as the work of Catholic education continues into the future.

The Education Board will be responsible for:

Ballarat	Loreto College
Benalla	FCJ College
Coorparoo	Loreto College
Kew	Genazzano FCJ College
Kirribilli	Loreto Kirribilli
Marryatville	Loreto College
Nedlands	Loreto Primary School
Normanhurst	Loreto Normanhurst
Toorak	Loreto Mandeville Hall

In the future the Education Board may have responsibility for other schools in addition to those listed above.

## **DEFINITIONS**

*“Education Board”*- means the joint Loreto-FCJ Education Board established under this Charter.

*“IBVM”* – Institute of the Blessed Mary or commonly known as the Loreto Sisters

*“FCJ”* – Society of the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus

*“Association”* – means the bodies corporate established (under various state legislations) by the Institute for the governance of schools.

*“Company”* means the body corporate established by the FCJ Sisters for the governance of Genazzano FCJ College.

*“School Council”* means the body formed under the Rules of the Association/Companies Act and which is charged with the governance of the schools.

*“Council”* – means the body formed under the “Institutes own law” to assist the Provincial Superiors in the governance of their provinces.

*“EO”* – Executive Officer responsible for the coordination of the activities of the Education Board

## **THE ROLE OF THE EDUCATION BOARD**

The Provincials and their Councils of the Society of Sisters Faithful Companions of Jesus and the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary have established an Education Board with advisory and delegated powers. This Education Board will work in partnership with the Institute and the Society in exercising stewardship, coordination and oversight of their educational ministry. The Education Board has no legal existence in civil law separate from each Provincial and her Council and no juridic identity in canon law separate from the Institute/Society. In exercising its role the Education Board will have regard to and be conscious of the powers and responsibilities of the incorporated Councils of each school and the Institute/Society. On behalf of the Institute and the Society the Education Board will exercise its responsibility for the Schools in the following areas and in any other matter that may be delegated by the Provincials and their Councils.

### **Education Ethos**

The Education Board seeks to ensure that:

- i. the governance of Loreto-FCJ Schools is grounded in gospel values, that it is in accordance with the Canon Law of the Roman Catholic Church and the educational philosophy of the Religious Sisters known in Australia as the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (for Loreto schools) and the Society, Faithful Companions of Jesus (for the FCJ schools).
- ii. the Institute’s / Society’s charism, story and philosophy of education, mission and goals is communicated.
- iii. excellence in teaching and learning in all facets of the curriculum is promoted.
- iv. school communities are encouraged to interact positively with local church initiatives.

## **Governance**

The role of the Education Board is to:

- i. Advise the relevant Provincial and Council regarding educational philosophy and financial policy of the schools as these relate to the Provincial Superior and Council.
- ii. Approve any significant changes made to the structure or direction of a school. In the unusual situation that a disagreement arises between the Education Board and the school Council, then the Provincial will make the final decision.
- iii. Recommend to the relevant Provincial:
  - to approve the appointment /reappointment of the Chair of School Council
  - to approve the appointment, reappointment and termination of the Principal / Deputy (FCJ)
- iv. Receive and consider the recommendation of the Chair of the School Council relating to membership of School Council and to appoint, reappoint or remove a member of the School Council/Board (FCJ).
- v. Approve the process for the:
  - Appointment of the Principal
  - Review of the Principal
  - Strategic Planning including the School Review
- vi. Approve the financial structures and policies in the schools and the analysis school finances.
- vii. Recommend to the Provincial and Council endorsement of a school's Development Plans
- viii. Recommend to the Provincial and Council for approval:
  - any application for financial loans by the schools
  - any applications for capital development projects or for the demolition of school buildings
  - any acquisition, sale or lease of land or buildings
- ix. Consider the material submitted by the Chairs of the School Councils for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the respective School Associations /Company and report upon that material to the Provincials and Councils.

## **General**

In addition to the matters listed above the Education Board will perform the following:

- i. Encourage and promote the network of the schools within Australia and where appropriate promote ties with Loreto/Mary Ward / FCJ Society Schools Internationally.

- ii. Consult where appropriate with School Councils/Board and Principals in order to exercise the stewardship of the Education Board and the stewardship of the Institute and the Society.
- iii. Work collaboratively with appropriate Catholic education authorities in each diocese and work with other bodies as required.
- iv. Affirm the importance and identity of each school.
- v. Provide assistance in the formation and induction of School Council members and school staff.
- vi. Undertake research for planning of future governance of the Schools.
- vii. Prepare a Strategic plan for the Loreto-FCJ Education Board and undertake an annual review of Education Board operations.
- viii. Prepare an annual budget for the Education Board for approval by the Provincials.
- ix. Oversee the activities of the Education office and the Executive Officer and provide appropriate support.
- x. Keep open, lines of communication with sub-committees of the Board eg. LSAC.

## **RESERVED POWERS**

The Provincials and their Councils remain ultimately responsible for the schools of the Institute / Society. As members of the Association / Company for each school they are required by canon law to retain certain rights and may add to the following reserve powers.

- To establish the Association / Company
- To dissolve the Association / Company
- To approve the Rules of the Association / Company and amendments thereto
- To change the name of the Association / Company
- To appoint and remove the Chair of School Council
- To conduct the Annual General Meeting of the Association / Company
- To approve the purchase and sale of land
- To approve capital development projects and loans
- To approve the philosophical and religious statements concerning the purpose of the school.

## **VARIATION OF CHARTER AND WINDING UP**

Any decision to vary this Charter or to terminate the work of the Loreto-FCJ Education Board rests with the Provincials of the IBVM and FCJ Society and their Councils.