



25 February 2021  
PO15 / 2021

Dear Leaders of Educational Entities,

**Re: New Executive Director for Jesuit Education Australia**

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Ms Nicki Patten as the new Executive Director of Jesuit Education Australia, commencing on 12 April 2021.

A highly experienced senior leader in Catholic and not for profit organisations, Nicki comes to us with extensive experience across a range of sectors including education, health, medical and community services, as well as further experience in corporate and legal services.

Nicki joins us from her current role as Director, Standards & Legal with the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea, where Nicki is responsible for working with several ministries, including Mercy Education, and has had oversight of governance structures, strategic planning, education policy and funding matters.

Nicki's previous positions include General Counsel and Company Secretary of Baptcare and Director, Risk and Audit and Strategic Advisor at World Vision Australia. Nicki is deeply skilled in corporate governance, audit and risk frameworks, advocacy, policy development, safeguarding and strategic planning. Nicki is legally qualified and has also undertaken postgraduate study in corporate governance and company directorship.

Nicki also has a personal connection to the Society of Jesus, with her son graduating from Xavier College in 2016 and as the former Deputy Chair of Xavier Social Justice Network from 2011 to 2016.

Please join us in welcoming Nicki and wishing her every blessing on this exciting appointment for JEA and the Australian Province.

We also acknowledge and thank Ms Jennie Hickey for her dedication as Acting Executive Director of JEA during this transitional period. Jennie will formally commence her role as JEA Formation and Education Officer from 12 April 2021.

Trusting in the Spirit to lead and guide us,

Fr Quyen Vu SJ  
Provincial

Ms Beth McConnell  
Chair of JEA