



26 November 2020

Dear Jesuits, Delegates, Chairs and Heads of Ministry

RE: Jesuit Education Australia (JEA) – Changes in 2021

I am delighted to announce that Ms Beth McConnell has agreed to become the new Chair of Jesuit Education Australia, commencing on 1 January 2021. Beth has nearly 30 years' experience as a solicitor and a consultant specialising in corporate governance and corporate trust and superannuation law. Beth also provides governance, facilitation and training services through her own consultancy, Beth McConnell Consulting.

Beth is well known within Jesuit education in Australia. Beth is currently a member of JEA's Finance, Risk and Audit Committee and will commence as a director of JEA on 1 December. Beth is Melbourne based and was a member of the Xavier College Council from October 2013 until March 2018 and a director of Xavier College Limited from March 2018 until March 2020. Beth also chaired Xavier College's Risk and Compliance Committee.

Over the last two years Beth has been a much-valued presenter in the JEA Formation Program for the directors and officers of the five Jesuit Colleges. She has also worked with Redfern Jarjum College Board in facilitating their longer-term strategic development discussions.

Beth is also a director of CatholicCare Melbourne and provides governance consultancy services to a number of other Catholic school governance authorities.

As you know, Fr Tom Renshaw SJ will conclude his term as the Chair of JEA on 31 December 2020 and will become the Rector of Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview from 1 January 2021. Over the last three and half years Tom has been instrumental in helping establish the new governance structures within the Province's education ministry.

As JEA Chair, Tom has held both governance and management responsibilities during JEA's establishment phase. With Tom concluding in this role, there is an opportunity to restructure JEA. As JEA Chair, Beth will have no operational or management responsibilities. From 1 January 2021, the Executive or Management Team of JEA will consist of:

- a full time Executive Director – incorporating all the operational/management functions currently performed by the JEA Chair as well as some of the current responsibilities undertaken by the Executive Officer; and
- a Formation and Education Officer - 0.6fte will be with JEA and 0.4fte will be a secondment from JEA to work with the Mission Formation Team of Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia (JISA).

Jennie Hickey has been appointed the JEA Formation and Education Officer from 1 January 2021. Jennie has also generously agreed to be the Acting Executive Director of JEA until a person is appointed and commences in this role. While Jennie is the Acting Executive Director of JEA, the 0.4 secondment to JISA will not take effect in acknowledgement of the higher duties Jennie is taking on in the interim. The JEA Board is most grateful for Jennie's generosity and flexibility as we move into this period of transition.

The role of the full time JEA Executive Director will be advertised in the coming weeks.

Trusting in the Spirit to lead and guide us,

Fr Brian F. McCoy SJ
Provincial and Executive Chair of the Society Jesus in Australia