



MATER CHRISTI CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

It is my privilege and pleasure to present to you the 2025 School Advisory Council Chairperson Report.

Compared to previous years, 2025 got off to what could be described as a subdued start, no new buildings to be handed over and prepared, no contingency plans required, no ground staff working through the night, a welcome return to business as usual, so to keep things interesting, swimming lessons week 1 of term 1.

A school cannot run without the dedicated individuals that make up the high performing team that is the Staff at Mater Christi. As is the case with high performing talent, we will lose some very valuable people next year to new opportunities, and this allows us to gratefully gain some fresh insights from new starters, as well as the always engaged and blessed work of the people continuing in existing or new roles within the school. We welcomed a new Principal to the school this term and Joanne will cover off staffing in detail in her report, but I do want to thank everyone that makes the day to day of Mater Christi such a great place for the children to learn and grow and an environment that is the envy of other communities. I'd also like to thank April Chalak and Stacey Williamson for stepping into the Assistant Principal Role in terms 2 and 3, Renae Zelich for stepping into the Principal Role in term 3, and Jesseca Francis for able supporting all of these transitions as she navigated her first year as Assistant Principal here at Mater Christi.

I'd also like to thank all the staff who continue to give up their own time to support various activities throughout the year, Year 5 Sleepover, Year 6 Camp, MC Dream Team, training for various sporting carnivals to name just a few, and express my gratitude to their families for accommodating this time away, without which these activities could not take place.

Special thanks to the wonderful Office Team, Paula and Tanya, who sit on The Front Line, act as Welcoming Committee and sometimes, the first line of defence. I'm also pleased to report this year they have not had to take me to task for appearing to drop the kids off in a non designated drop off area, I still maintain this was a case of mistaken identity, and I'll explain why....

Barbara for the outstanding work every year in preparing and submitting the budgets, and for the 5th consecutive year being the only person that Con highlights we have no contingency plan for, and of course Amanda who as The Principal's PA, is not only is the glue who holds us all together, but also provides an invaluable contribution here at Mater Christi.

I'd like to once again thank the ground staff for maintaining the school to its usual impeccable standards, and wish Anthony well as he retires at the end of the year after an amazing 30 plus years with Mater Christi.

A school cannot operate to its full potential without the engagement of its community and the P&F continue to help, support, and drive that engagement

We are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated and caring group of volunteers. The P&F has always done a great job in working with the school for the benefit of the children and it was excellent to see the initiatives of last year carried over to 2025, along with some new initiatives, to maximise community involvement from the wider group. I am looking forward to the P&F report on achievements and their planning for next year and I want to acknowledge and thank Angela, the entire P&F and the army of volunteers for dedicating so much of their time for the benefit of others.

I would like to give a special mention to Mike Huddelston, Dave Gillett, Joe Paratore, Matt Voysey and Mitch Thomas for their organisation of the Dads and Kids Camp, a fantastic opportunity for Dads to spend 1 on 1 time with their children, while only getting 14 minutes sleep.

It is very important as a Catholic School to work collaboratively with Parish and this year is no different, communications have always remained open and honest about the needs of both sides of the coin and how to best work together to achieve shared goals.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank Father Peter and Father Nicholas for their contributions to the school and the overarching relationships within the Parish, I would like to acknowledge the ongoing support and delivery of the sacramental programs, as well as acknowledging the sacramental teachers involved in preparing the children for their sacraments. I'd like to congratulate Father Peter who, after being the founding priest of this parish, will retire at the end of the year after an incredible 51 years.

I'd like to thank the 2025 School Advisory Council. As members our primary role is to act as a sounding board and advisory committee for the principal and school as a whole. The SAC team has such a diverse background and as such it has been a pleasure to sit in the meetings and listen to ideas, engage in robust discussions, and provide feedback in support of the school, and I believe the school is a better place for our contribution.

This is my last year as Chair, and as I am put out to pasture to see out my dotage, I'd like to reflect on the journey we have all been on over the last 6 years. One constant has been change, from dealing with a global pandemic, for which there was no play book, schools being forced to close, parents having to home school their own children, which within the very first morning answered the question "how hard can it be?" Knocking classrooms down, building stage 15 the year 2/3 classrooms, knocking classrooms down, building stage 16 the kindy/pre primary classrooms, trying to get funding for stage 17, a culmination of over a decade of planning to see these long-term projects come to fruition. A huge amount of credit goes to Toni for progressing these projects, while addressing day to day operational needs and commitments. As I mentioned during the opening of Stage 16, although the school received grants and low interest loans, the school also had a contribution to both stage 15 and stage 16. Due to Supply Chain issues the contribution amount for stage 16 doubled, and had the school not been so well managed to have those reserves and be in a position to meet this increased cost, stage 16 would not have happened.

One thing that has not changed though, through all of these challenges, is the standards set by the Leadership Group and the Staff. I mentioned earlier that Mater Christi has an environment that is the envy of other communities, this was perfectly summed up at the opening of stage 16 where

one of the invited guests from the builders commented that although he is invited quite often to various events through his work, as soon as he steps into Mater Christi he could sense and feel that there was something different, something special about the school and the community. This is a credit to each and every person in this room tonight.

So, thank you for your dedication, Mater Christi will continue to attract and retain the very best of teaching staff, which translates to an outstanding education for the families lucky enough to be part of our community.

Finally, and in closing, the school continues to be in a very strong position spiritually, financially, educationally and continues on a bright path of development for the future. I look forward to Joanne, Renae and Jesseca working with new and existing people in the Parish, the school, the SAC, the P&F and continuing to deliver an outstanding experience for the children and the community.

Glenn Turner
SAC Chairperson

