

Media Release

27 May 2019

Appointment: Dr Sally Towns - Diocesan Director of Catholic Schools/^L_{SEP}Chief Executive Officer of the Diocese of Lismore Catholic Schools Ltd

At this important time in the educational history of the Lismore diocese and in view of the impending retirement of Mr David Condon following 20 years of service in the diocese, including the past 7 years as Director of Schools, Bishop Homeming has announced the appointment of Dr Sally Towns as Diocesan Director of Catholic Schools/Chief Executive Officer of the Diocese of Lismore Catholic Schools Ltd, to commence on 22 July.

Dr Towns is known in the diocese, having taught in diocesan schools for 10 years. Her appointments included teacher at St Patrick's Primary School, Macksville (1998-2001), John Paul College, Coffs Harbour (2002-2003) - where she was the Campus Head of the Bowraville annexe - and teacher/middle leader at St Paul's Catholic College, Kempsey (2004-2007).

In 2008, she was appointed Deputy Principal of Mackillop Catholic College, Hobart. During 2008 she was appointed Acting Principal of the College. Sally was appointed Principal in 2009 and continued in this role until September 2015.

From 2015 until the present, Sally has been the Director of School Effectiveness in the Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Cairns. In this role, Sally has taken on significant leadership and administrative responsibilities, including that of Acting Deputy Executive Director and Acting Executive Director.

As well as a wealth of administrative experience Dr Towns has an impressive academic profile including a PhD awarded in 2011 for an examination of the expectations and realities of students during their transition from primary to secondary education. As well, she has two Masters Degrees, in Education and in Educational Administration respectively, has completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course and is currently studying for Masters Degrees in Business Administration and Theology. In addition, Sally holds a B.Ed. and has professional accreditation in Religious Education.

In commenting on the appointment of Dr Towns, Bishop Homeming said: "This is a particularly exciting time in our diocese as we approach a new era of governance and renewal in the church. Inspired, faith-filled leadership will be critical as we build on those aspects of our diocesan culture that we value deeply. As we face the challenges ahead, we will need Catholic education which renews, regenerates and adapts to changing times."

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