

**TOPIC:** Project Officer assists new teachers

Paving the way for a successful start to a teaching career with Catholic Education in the Diocese of Rockhampton is the worthwhile endeavour of newly appointed Project Officer - Teacher Support, Lauren Roach.

“My role is to assist early career teachers in the first two years of their profession to ensure a smooth transitioning from graduation to full registration,” Mrs Roach said.

“Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton recognises that beginning teachers face a steep learning curve and the better supported they are in their roles, the more effective they can be in the classroom,” Mrs Roach said.

Some of the ways in which Mrs Roach supports new teachers include assistance with planning, modelling lessons, co-teaching and providing support with positive behavioural approaches in the classroom.

“We may also discuss the widely varying needs of different learners in their class and how to best meet those needs effectively,” Mrs Roach said.

Mrs Roach is also working with schools to build internal mentoring capacity and implement structures that support the professional development and growth of teachers.

“Pastoral support is also very important. Some young teachers may be in their first full-time employment and may have moved away from home and their established support structures, which can add to the emotional and psychological impact of being a first or second year teacher,” Mrs Roach said.

Catholic Education Assistant Director: Teaching and Learning, Carmel Kriz, said supporting teachers through the early years of their careers was important to help facilitate a positive experience and a desire to continue progressing their career.

“We value teachers who have a genuine love of their profession. It’s important that we nurture and support our new teachers to give them every chance of reaching their potential. This enables Catholic Education to continue to grow our network of highly capable, confident teachers to staff each of our school communities,” Mrs Kriz said.

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