

**Queensland Catholic Education Commission**

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Healthy Futures Commission Queensland Bill 2017

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Introduction

The Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) provides this submission on the *Healthy Futures Commission Queensland Bill 2017* (the Bill) to inform the establishment of the Healthy Futures Commission Queensland (the Commission).

QCEC is the peak strategic body with state-wide responsibilities for Catholic schooling in Queensland. This submission is provided on behalf of the five Diocesan Catholic school authorities and 17 Religious Institutes and other incorporated bodies which, between them, operate a total of 302 Catholic schools that educate almost 147,000 students in Queensland.

The Healthy Futures Commission Queensland (the Commission) sets out goals to support the capacity of children and families to adopt a healthy lifestyle and to contribute to reducing health inequity for children and their families (Part 1: 3). QCEC supports these goals in principle and recognises that healthy children can participate more readily in their education and future endeavours.

QCEC is pleased to provide the following feedback on the establishment of the Bill. This response will consider the components of the Commission's *functions*, particularly focusing on *partnerships* and the provision of *grants* and their impact on schools.

1. Functions of the Commission

QCEC supports the Commission's functions to build capacity in children and families to adopt healthy lifestyles through information sharing as well as consultations with school communities.

QCEC would be open to consultation with the Commission on how best to progress this agenda with our Catholic School Authorities, so as to provide children with an opportunity to reach their full potential and to live a healthy life.

Further considerations could include:

- a. Identify consultation processes with the education sectors including schools and kindergartens;
- b. Identify opportunities to leverage existing healthy lifestyle programs in schools.

2. Partnerships

QCEC endorses the intent to work in partnership with other entities to achieve the functions (Part 2, Division 2: 9. 1 (a) to (c)). QCEC could facilitate access by Catholic education stakeholders to relevant information and resources developed through the work of the Commission.

Further considerations could include:

- a. Provision of multi-lingual resources to support diverse communities;
- b. Establishing partnerships with established organisations such as Nutrition Australia Queensland, Department of Health, parent organisations;
- c. Consultation and partnerships with the three education sectors where resources involve school participation and/or delivery;
- d. Consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to establish appropriate ways to deliver support to their communities.

3. Grants for projects and sponsorships

QCEC supports the use of grants/sponsorships as part of the function of the Commission as schools may require funding support to implement new initiatives in this area.

Further considerations could include:

- a. Establish clear guidelines and conditions for grants/sponsorships to be approved under the functions of the Commission, including such matters as limits, accountability reports and quality assurance;
- b. The Bill refers to appropriate organisations (Part 2, Division 2: 9. 1 (d)) however further clarification of what is meant by 'appropriate' would need to be provided.

Final Comment

QCEC thanks the Queensland Government for the opportunity to provide input to this Bill.



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Executive Director