

Educating for two centuries

In 2021, Catholic education celebrates 200 years of Catholic schooling in Australia. Today there are 1751 Catholic schools educating 768,000 students and employing 98,000 staff.

On February 18 a national launch for the bicentenary celebrations is planned to be held in the Diocese of Parramatta, which has connections to the first Catholic school opened in Hunter Street, Parramatta, in October 1820. Due to COVID restrictions this event may have to be held at a later date.

Over 200 years, Catholic schools have grown to become the largest provider of schooling in Australia outside government, with one-in-five school-age students attending a Catholic school.

National Catholic education executive director Jacinta Collins says Catholic schools have served Australian families for more than 200 years.

"As we build on the rich legacy of those that came before us, we have faith in the future of Catholic education and our shared mission to both educate and enliven the faith lives of future generations of children and young people," Ms Collins says.

The bicentenary celebrations are an opportunity to give thanks for the gift of Catholic education in Australia, and to recognise the contribution of all those involved in the foundation and development of Catholic education over the past two centuries.

The celebrations are also an opportunity to look forward to a hope-filled future as Catholic education navigates new territory in schooling and the changing educational landscape and



The Convent and School as it was in 1908.

societal context in Australia. Today nearly 40 per cent of Catholic schools are located outside of metropolitan cities in regional, rural and remote communities.

The bicentenary will be celebrated throughout 2021 with a range of national and local events to be held around the country.

Catholic Education Northern Territory will host an official launch to kick off the 200-year celebrations on March 1, 2021.

The launch will be held at St Mary's Cathedral, which also shares the same site as the first Catholic school, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, established in 1908.

A National Mass will also be celebrated in every state, territory and diocese on the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians on May 24, 2021.

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200YEARS.CATHOLIC.EDU.AU

WE ARE CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY AND WE HAVE FAITH IN THEIR FUTURE

For more than one hundred years we've had faith in their future. Our Catholic schools have been educating students in towns and communities, from Katherine to Alice Springs, from the city of Darwin to Humpty Doo. Catholic Education in the Northern Territory offers a network of schools, a network of learning communities built on our Catholic values.

Though we may be spread out across the Territory,

we are connected through our commitment to deliver quality education, provide leadership that will transform young minds and to model the values of our Catholic faith.

Our schools are places of opportunity, for students, teachers and families.

There's a special spirit in our Catholic schools that makes everyone feel welcome and part of a community – a place where you can belong.

A network of schools that create a lifetime of connections



Catholic Education
CELEBRATING 200 YEARS
Faith in their future

