

## **Holy Rosary Primary School Advisory Council Chair Report**

Ryan Denham

12 November 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of Holy Rosary's School Advisory Council.

I am pleased to report a successful year for the Council, and today will provide a brief overview of key activities.

### **Capital Works – Maintenance/Improvements and Stage 12 CDP**

Due to the topography, history and age of many buildings within the school, capital development is a topic that remains on the Council agenda. Commitment to and planning of capital improvements requires due consideration of the school's needs, balanced by financial constraints and priorities.

The Council's activities in relation to capital works this year have been focussed on two main areas.

The first of these has been oversight/monitoring of maintenance expenditure. Aging infrastructure requires ongoing maintenance, which needs to be considered within the context of their remaining useful life, capital development plan, community expectations and operational needs.

The second area of focus has been Stage 12 of the Capital Development Plan, which is a new and consolidated Early Years Precinct, and an overall increase in the outdoor play area within the school. This remains a priority, with CEWA engagement and advocacy being the main activities this year. We continue to support the school in navigating the CEWA capital grant system and positioning the project to be funded.

### **Finances and Enrolments**

2024 has been the year in which we have seen the past few years of high inflation really start to hit the broader economy, with schools being no exception. Financial management has therefore been an important issue for the Council this year. It is a testament to Mark de Kluiver, Lisa Monzu and the team that Holy Rosary's finances are tightly managed, and are in very good shape.

Underpinning the financial position is also the fact that student enrolments remain strong, as does new family/student interest in the school. This demonstrates the excellent reputation of the school, and reflects the fantastic work and pride that staff bring to their work.

### **Acknowledgements**

I'd like to take the opportunity to briefly acknowledge a number of people:

- Firstly, I would like to thank Peter Coppini for undertaking the role of Treasurer again this year. He has provided important insights and explanations of the school financial information and is a key link back to Lisa Monzu. And thanks also to Lisa for providing comprehensive, high quality financial reports in a timely manner to the Council.
- Thanks also go to Father Peter, who continued to make a valuable contribution to our community and Advisory Council, and also fostering and maintaining a strong link to the Parish.
- Thank you also to Mark De Kluyver for his comprehensive reports and support of the Council, and also for the involvement and support of Joe Kinder and Tegan Back.
- I would also like to sincerely thank and pay tribute to Mark de Kluyver, Holy Rosary's departing Principal. He has led the school tenaciously for the past 9 years, with students, staff and the interests of the school community at the heart of his leadership. He has always been open, frank and honest with the Council, and me personally over the past 7 years of my membership. Mark – I wish you all the very best in retirement, you've certainly earned it.
- And finally, I would like to congratulate Michael O'Dwyer on his appointment to the Principalship for 2025, and wish him every success in leading the school.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank the staff of Holy Rosary. Your commitment, professionalism and passion drives the continuing success of this school.

Thank you.