



## 2024-11-18 ANNUAL COLLEGE COMMUNITY MEETING

### ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT

Tonight, we reflect on what has been another excellent year for the Advisory Council for St John Bosco College.

In a CEWA College, the Advisory Council supports the Principal and College Leadership in aligning the College's Mission with CEWA's values and priorities. Its key roles include:

**Strategic Guidance:** Advising on the College's strategic direction and alignment with CEWA's Vision for Learning.

**Financial Oversight:** Assisting with budgeting, monitoring financial health, and advising on fees and levies.

**Policy Support:** Guiding the development and review of procedures and policies to ensure compliance and alignment with the Catholic ethos.

**Advocacy:** Promoting the College's Catholic identity and fostering community relationships.

**Infrastructure Advice:** Supporting the planning and maintenance of College facilities.

**Community Engagement:** Strengthening and encouraging parent and parish involvement.

**Governance:** Ensuring accountability and supporting leadership recruitment, where relevant.

The council provides advice, not operational management, ensuring collaboration between the College, CEWA, and its community.

This year, we welcomed all Advisory Council members into their roles with a comprehensive induction into the Catholic Education System and the functions of this council. Every member has embraced the responsibilities of their position, ensuring we adhere to the CEWA Code of Conduct, Child Protection Procedures, and uphold the child-safe practices that are fundamental to our Catholic College community.

In my role as chair, I also undertook Catholic Identity training. Additionally, we were invited to consult on the CEWA Advisory Council terms of reference, helping shape the governance framework that supports all Catholic schools.

### **Community Engagement and Advocacy**

In September, Kevin and I had the opportunity to meet with the Minister for Education, the Hon. Tony Buti, and Yaz Mubarakai, Member for Jandakot, to discuss key issues affecting education in our local community. One of the main challenges raised was managing school traffic. Their recommendation? Encourage more students and parents to walk or ride to school, a simple yet impactful suggestion for both congestion and community health.

In October, we participated in the Quality Catholic Education School Review, where we provided feedback on how the College is progressing against its own self-review goals. This was a great opportunity to reflect on our achievements and focus areas as we continue to grow.

### **Capital Developments**

Our College's development is something we can all be proud of. This year, we secured an Australian Government Capital Grant of \$152,000 to support Stage 7, which includes a new canteen and a covered outdoor area. The tender was approved, and construction is underway, with completion expected by March 2025.

Meanwhile, Stage 8, which includes six new classroom studios, received approval following our panel presentation in Term 2. CEWA confirmed its support for additional capital funding in August, and we are on track to begin construction in February 2025.

These projects are vital as we continue our journey to becoming a state-of-the-art Pre-Kindy -Year 12 College by the end of 2025. None of this would be possible

without the incredible support from CEWA and the Federal Government, and I want to acknowledge how privileged we are to receive such assistance.

## **Financial Sustainability**

Of course, growth comes with financial responsibilities. To sustain our development and maintain the quality education we pride ourselves on, there will be a 5% increase in fees for 2025. We understand that cost of living pressures are impacting all families, and I strongly encourage everyone to consider the College's flexible payment options, such as fortnightly payments, to make fees more manageable.

## **Acknowledgments and Thanks**

I want to take a moment to celebrate the Friends of St John Bosco College for their outstanding contributions to our community this year. Their events have brought us together and strengthened our bonds as a College community. I am particularly looking forward to the end-of-year concert, which is always a highlight, and I hope we see more quiz nights in the future!

To my fellow Advisory Council members: Cassie, Siminette, Brett, Daniel, Joe, and Hailee, thank you for your dedication and teamwork. Hailee, your role in bridging the Council and the Friends group has been invaluable, and Andrew, your connection with the St Francis Xavier Parish has ensured our work stays true to our Catholic identity.

As I reflect on my eight years on the Advisory Council, I am proud of what we have achieved together. From those early days without any secondary buildings, to now seeing the College on the cusp of being a fully functioning Pre-Kindy-12 institution. It has been an incredible journey.

Thank you, everyone, for all for your ongoing support of the College, and I look forward to seeing what we can achieve together in the year ahead.

Thank you

Erin Parry

Advisory Council Chair