

At the Diocesan Principals gathering on July 26 in Halls Gap, the Foundation Year (Prep) to Year 10 Diocesan Scope and Sequence for Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) resource, called *Fullness of Life for All*, was launched.

The scope and sequence resource will assist teachers and school leaders to implement Relationships and Sexuality Education in a way that acknowledges the context of our communities and is in fidelity with Church teaching in the area. The launch follows professional development that took place in each of the zones in May.



This resource was produced by the Catholic Education Office Ballarat (CEOB) in response to the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria commitment to the Victorian Government child safety reforms, which require all school governing authorities to ensure appropriate education about healthy and respectful relationships (including sexuality), together with education about child abuse awareness and prevention.

In 2015, a Reference Group was established with the aim of formulating a policy for Relationships and Sexuality Education for the Ballarat Diocesan Schools Advisory Council. The Reference Group consisted of primary teachers, priests, primary curriculum leaders, primary Religious Education Leaders, parents and CEO staff and Dr Frances Baker rsm, a moral theologian from Catholic Theological College. The reference group was responsible for developing the Diocesan policy for Relationships and Sexuality Education. A draft policy was completed in 2016 and, after a few amendments, this policy was ratified in 2018.

In developing the scope and sequence, CEOB engaged the services of an external consultant, Jenny Walsh, who is a Relationship and Sexuality Education consultant with extensive experience of developing curriculum in this area across Victoria. Working collaboratively, Jenny and Jim Waight (Primary Religious Education Officer CEOB) constructed a Scope and Sequence for P – 6 which was completed by the end of Semester 1, 2017. Explicit links were made to teachings of the Catholic tradition at each level. After consultation with teachers and students across the diocese, Jenny Walsh constructed the Scope and Sequence for Years 7 – 10. Bernadette Tolan (Secondary Religious Education Officer CEOB) collaborated with Jenny to ensure the Enhancing Catholic School Identity theology, the Catholic context and teachings of the Church were explicit across the Scope and Sequence.

In December 2018, Fr Bernard Teo CSsR, a moral theologian, was contacted to review the RSE Scope and Sequence P – 10 for the purpose of obtaining a Nihil Obstat. This was granted in April 2019. In his feedback, Fr Bernard stated that the program was faithful to Church teachings and what the faith community holds. He said that it demonstrated a positive approach towards human sexuality and was in line with Church teachings.

*Jim Waight and Bernadette Tolan*

*Photo: Bishop Paul Bird, Audrey Brown, Bernadette Tolan, Jim Waight, John Meneely*