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## **Appointment of Director of Catholic Education**

Several months ago, the panel charged with the selection of a new Director of Catholic Education and Chief Executive Officer of the Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited commenced the process of recruiting for that position. A strong field of applicants responded to the advertisement and the process of shortlisting has now been completed. However, on the advice of the selection panel and the DOBCEL Board, we have decided to postpone the interviews with shortlisted candidates. For such an important appointment, a face-to-face process of interviews, presentations and dialogue between the panel and candidates is important. The current travel and physical-distancing restrictions brought on by the COVID-19 outbreak do not permit such a process for now.

In keeping with diocesan education policy, we are pleased to announce that Deputy Director of Catholic Education, Mr John Meneely, has accepted appointment as Interim Director of Catholic Education and Chief Executive Officer of DOBCEL from Friday 3 July, when the resignation of the current Director, Ms Audrey Brown, takes effect. John has graciously agreed to step into the role at that stage, despite the end date of such an arrangement being unknown. John's appointment will give certainty and continuity of leadership for our Diocesan Education Community and support for the DOBCEL Board until the selection process for the new Director can be finalised.

John has been Deputy Director of Catholic Education in our Diocese since 2015 and has been Acting Director for lengthy periods on two occasions. He has been engaged with the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria and numerous other state and national education bodies. He is co-Company Secretary of DOBCEL, a member of our Catholic Education Office leadership team and a member of our COVID-19 Response Team. We are confident that John's knowledge of our current diocesan context and significant proven leadership experience will enable a smooth transition (however long that may be) in the interim and will enhance the handover, in time, to a new Director of Catholic Education. We thank Audrey Brown for the help she has given in providing for this smooth transition.

We thank John for his willingness to take on this interim role at a time of uncertainty and we give our assurance of our prayerful and active support for him and for all of our Catholic education communities in the months to come.

Paul Bird

Bishop of Ballarat

Tracey O'Neill

Chair of DOBCEL Board