



**Dear Parents and Carers,**

### **Advocating for Safe and Respectful School Communities**

Catholic School Parents South Australia (CSPSA) is committed to ensuring all students learn in safe, inclusive environments. While recent media coverage has highlighted concerns about bullying and harassment, it has also reminded us of the importance of appropriate parent and community conduct in fostering a respectful school environment. Such conduct is crucial for safeguarding the well-being of both students and staff.

While schools work within clear policies and legal frameworks, it is essential for families to lead by example, shaping positive behaviours both in person and online. Schools, families, and the broader community share the responsibility of promoting respectful relationships.

Families play a key role in shaping positive behaviours to ensure all staff and students can teach and learn in safe, supportive environments.

### **Addressing Bullying: Collaboration and Legislative Action**

CSPSA welcomes the Federal Government's national review into bullying and will actively contribute to ensure parents' voices are heard, advocating for thoughtful, solutions-focused approaches. We also commend the South Australian Government for signing the Memorandum of Administrative Arrangement with New South Wales, reinforcing the joint commitment to tackling bullying through shared policies, frameworks, and innovative solutions.

### **Strengthening Protections for Students and Staff**

We fully support the **Education and Children's Services (Barring Notices and Other Protections) Amendment Bill 2024**, which strengthens protections for students, staff, and families in school communities.

While some parents may feel more should be done, school leaders must navigate legal and privacy constraints when addressing incidents. Families with concerns are encouraged to engage directly with school leadership to seek resolution.

### **Supporting Families and Schools**

CSPSA is here to support families by providing guidance on navigating school grievance processes and advocating for constructive resolutions. Through resources, tools, and educational seminars, we aim to empower families to understand their rights and responsibilities within the school system. Our goal is to help families address challenges effectively and promote positive school experiences for all students.

As we work through these important issues, we remain focused on collaborating with schools, policymakers, and families to create safe, inclusive, and respectful learning environments.

By encouraging open communication and offering expert support, we strive to ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive in a supportive and productive educational setting.

Yours sincerely



**Trish Jarvis**  
**Executive Officer**

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