

SYNOD SCHOOLS COMMISSION

Context:

The Schools Commission acts as the Synod body with respect to schools and residential colleges. Currently, there are 12 schools and 5 residential colleges with which the Commission interacts. For the schools alone, this includes contact with the families of some 20,000 students.

The schools fall into five categories:

1. Calvary Christian College, The Lakes College, The SCOTS PGC College (all with the Property Trust as the legal entity)
2. Moreton Bay College and Moreton Bay Boys College (separately incorporated under Letters Patent and Company Limited by Guarantee respectively)
3. Shalom Christian College (previously owned and operated by Congress Community and Development Education Unit) and now in the process of having the Trust as the Legal Entity.
4. Brisbane Boys College, Somerville House, Clayfield College, Sunshine Coast Grammar School (operated by the separately incorporated under Letters Patent PMSA)
5. Unity College, Jubilee Primary School and Emmaus College (owned and administered by Catholic Education Office but run in partnership with the UCA and in some cases other churches.

The Residential Colleges include

- Grace College (UQ, women, partnership with Presbyterian Church)
- Kings College (UQ, men, UCA)
- Emmanuel College (UQ, co-ed, partnership with Presbyterian Church)
- Cromwell College (UQ, co-ed, UCA)
- John Flynn College (JCU, co-ed, UCA /Lutheran)

Additional residential College, Rayment Lodge is operated under the Synod but does not have its own board.

Since the 29th Synod, the Schools Commission has endeavoured to work within the framework of *Together on the way, enriching community* while carrying out its routine tasks.

Responses to our Priority Directions since last Synod	Working towards our Priority Directions in the future
<i>Developing sustainable mission oriented organisation for the Church in Queensland</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gained the co-operation of all schools except PMSA to contribute annually to the costs of the Schools Commission • Continued to refine the processes for appointment and re-appointment of board members • Extended the appointment and evaluation process to residential colleges • Distributed governance booklet and other UCA documents to new board members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a process for the allocation and accountability of grant monies • Work with GNRC re Schools Commission and board succession. • Evaluate the roles of the Commission and Executive Officer for succession planning. • Continue to work with schools in responding to Royal Commission requests • Work with schools to develop reporting template.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gained co-operation of schools for Commission involvement with school accreditation and a risk mitigation strategy • Within the Synod, liaised intentionally with other Synod sections such as finance, insurance, communication, property, governance for internal effectiveness and so that schools experience a consistency in approach. • Has worked towards increased networking of our schools • Has been integral in working with Shalom Christian College to maintain services • Worked closely with The Lakes College Board to develop long term strategic and financial goals • Put processes in place to respond to calls from the Royal Commission into sexual abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with new Board and leadership team at Shalom to ensure sustainability and compliance.
<p><i>Facilitating renewal of leadership for the mission of the Church</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with Geoff Thomson to explore courses that could be available for School leaders • Engaged with School leadership to enhance links with UCA • Gained support of The Scots College board to allow leadership expertise from SCOTS to be shared with Shalom Christian College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue work with Trinity and Pilgrim to identify study options for school leaders • Complete suite of documents for school leaders to use with staff and families • Develop further collaboration between school leaders
<p><i>Engaging in opportunities for intentional, open community connections and partnerships</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Schools Commission has continued to be represented in educational bodies with Mike Millard on the BGA and Elaine Rae on the ISQ Educational Advisory Committee • Several schools are working with UnitingWorld and linking with partner churches in India and the Pacific • The Commission is developing links with Congress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a strong relationship with Congress

Key achievements/initiatives:

The following would be regarded as significant achievements:

Developing a full and highly effective board of The Lakes College and supporting the College in its transition to a new Principal and leadership team. While the College is still in its development stage, enrolment and financial indicators are trending in the right direction.

Encouraging and enabling collaboration by the leaders of the our Colleges.

The most significant work has been working with the other synod departments, the administrators of CCDEU and government agencies to ensure the continuance of Shalom Christian College in Townsville.

Gained a \$15000 grant over three years to assist with enhancing the governance capacity of board members.

Challenges/risks as we progress:

The biggest challenge is to continue to maintain the routine processes for effective boards given natural turnover while often dealing with unforeseen issues. This same challenge applies to succession planning for the Commission and staff.

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