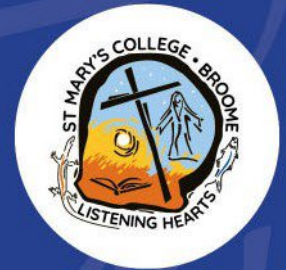


2024 Advisory Council Chair Report

Patrick Moase



In 2024, the School Advisory Council (“SAC”) undertook a review of the CEWA SAC Terms of Reference (ToR) in an effort to align the efficacy and performance of the SAC against CEWA’s directives, and to determine how best the SAC can support the College and their Leadership team throughout the year. This included unpacking the key roles of the SAC, the current and previous changes to membership numbers, our deliverables and responsibilities, and the views of members and the College Leadership team as to how effective the SAC has been in recent years.

We also engaged in dialogue with the CEWA Governance team in Perth, with our timing of the engagement aligning with a statewide review of all catholic schools SAC’s and the ToR’s that dictate the guiding principles that we follow.

In summary, most schools SAC’s responsibilities have changed considerably over the past 3 years due to the transitional process of CEWA and CECWA incorporating a few years ago. Prior to that, the Board, as we were referred to, had substantially more contribution on how the school was run from a financial oversight position. This is now no longer the case, so effectively we worked throughout this year to establish how we could define our ‘new identity’ as a productive and meaningful SAC.

One of the new roles we proposed was that the SAC might be able to bring value to the College and the Leadership Teams by acting as a ‘sounding board’ for new College and Catholic community initiatives that may still sit in the early planning stages, but needed external input to progress. The current diversity of skills and expertise of the members of the SAC offered the opportunity to seek advice, guidance and opinions on proposed changes or initiatives the school was investigating, and further provide an independent view or suggestion that the College may elect to either support, challenge the thinking, or opt to look for an alternative outcome. Fundamentally, the SAC could act as ‘Think Tank’ rather than an authority.

Moving into 2025, the SAC is looking to define these new ToR tailored to suit ‘our’ College and community, and I encourage members of the school’s community to think about joining our committee and sharing your knowledge and expertise in a way that benefits the most important recipients – *our students*. We look forward to formalising these changes in 2025.

On behalf of the members of the School Advisory Council, we extend our best wishes for a safe, happy and holy Christmas and New Year to the entire St Mary’s College community.

Patrick Moase

Chairperson – St Mary’s College Advisory Council