



From the EREA Council

27 April 2022

Dear Parents & Carers of Students in Edmund Rice Schools

I pray that the blessings of Eastertide are with you and your family and school communities.

I am writing on behalf of the Council of Trustees of Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) to advise you of important changes to our Governance Structure. Pope Francis has wisely reminded us on many occasions that we are encountering a 'Change of Era'. This is indeed true for Edmund Rice Education Australia as we adopt a new incorporated governance structure – to be called EREA Ltd - which heralds a transformation of the organisation for a new era.

EREA Ltd has been created in response to a renewed commitment to governance that continues to place the over 40,000 students of our diverse learning communities at the heart of all we do with clear lines of accountability and transparency.

The details of the new structure, effective from 1 January 2023, in summary are:

- **EREA Ltd Parent Entity** will be a company limited by guarantee with four subsidiaries. Together, EREA Ltd and its subsidiaries will be responsible for the continuation of the mission of a Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition.
- The four subsidiary boards reflect the breadth of EREA's education ministries, with each board having a very distinct function and a Board of Directors with specific expertise:
 - **EREA Flexible Schools Ltd** will oversee 21 flexible learning centres across metropolitan, regional, and rural Australia. These schools serve some of the most marginalised young people, who yearn for another chance at education, and who may have been excluded from or have felt excluded from education.
 - **EREA Colleges Ltd** will oversee the mainstream colleges and early learning centres across Australia outside Victoria.
 - **EREA Victorian Schools Ltd** will govern 5 Victorian colleges and one Flexible Learning School to ensure that the specific regulatory requirements of Victoria are met in a targeted manner.
 - **EREA St Kevin's College Ltd** will provide local governance oversight to St Kevin's College, Melbourne, strengthening specific governance and accountability requirements.

I am also delighted to announce the appointment of **Adjunct Professor Iyla Davies OAM** as the Inaugural Chair of EREA Ltd. Iyla is a distinguished law academic, respected community leader and experienced company director and Chair. Her broad expertise and remarkable professional experience will be critical in the establishment and shaping of EREA Ltd. Most importantly, Iyla's deep personal faith commitment will ensure that EREA continues to contribute strongly to the Mission of Catholic Education in the Australian Church inspired by the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice.

EREA Council

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As we encounter this change of era we are ever grateful for the Christian Brothers and many lay women and men who have ministered prior to us. We *'remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm and look to the future with confidence'* (Novo Millennio Ineunte 2001:1) trusting in our God to guide us.

We ask for your prayers as we at EREA work together in this period of regeneration and renewal. We pray that *God grants us the courage and compassion of Blessed Edmund as we seek to live lives of love and service.* (Prayer of Thanks for Blessed Edmund)

Blessings and thanks,



Ms Philomena (Phil) Billington
President

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