

1 February 2024

To the Members of the St. Joseph's College Community,

Victorian Schools Change of Proprietor – 1 January 2024

This letter is written on behalf of the Trustees of Edmund Rice Education Australia (**TEREA**) and the Board of Directors of EREA Victorian Schools Limited (**VSL**) to inform you that VSL became the registered proprietor of six Victorian Catholic secondary schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition from 1 January 2024 including St. Joseph's College.

*The world and everything in it
is continually changing which proves to us
that there is nothing permanent under the sun
The will of God be done in this
and everything we undertake.*

*Blessed Edmund Rice to Mother Mary Knowd,
Presentation Convent, Dublin. All Souls' Day 1813*

Since 1868, there have been Edmund Rice schools in Victoria, over that time there has been significant changes to each of the schools and how they are governed – Edmund Rice's reflection in 1813 is so true: *The world and everything in it is continually changing*. 1 January 2024 marks another significant milestone in the governance reform of Edmund Rice schools, as VSL provides a structure that creates more focused, nuanced, and local leadership for the Victorian schools.

VSL is now the proprietor of six EREA schools in Victoria. They are (in order of establishment): **Parade College**, Bundoora and Preston; **St Patrick's College**, Ballarat; **St Joseph's College**, Geelong; **St Bernard's College**, Essendon; **St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centres**, North Melbourne, Geelong, Colac, Ballarat and BlendED (Ballarat and BlendED are subject to regulatory approval); **St Mary's College**, East St Kilda. As Catholic schools in the Edmund Rice tradition, these six schools each carry a proud history emanating from the foundation of the first school founded by Br Ambrose Treacy and the pioneer Christian Brothers who arrived in Melbourne on 18 November 1868. From this small beginning there are now 55 schools across Australia (with approximately a further 45 associate schools which had been founded by the Brothers but are now part of Catholic Diocesan education systems), making EREA one of Australia's largest national education providers.



EREA



1871



1878



1893



1935



1940



2012

EREA VICTORIAN
SCHOOLS LTD.

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Your main connection remains directly with St. Joseph's College: your Principal, Mr. Tony Paatsch, the dedicated leadership team, and St. Joseph's College staff will continue to provide the highest level of care and education, in partnership with each of you, and inspired by the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice.

As the Member of VSL, TERA expresses its appreciation to the Board and each of the inaugural Directors: Ms. Janelle Howell (Chair), Mr. Mark Conway (Deputy Chair), Mr. Jeffrey Burn, Ms. Amy Gerraty, Mr. Nicholas Nicoloudis, Ms. Lynda Sanders and Mr. Roberto Scenna. TERA is grateful to each Director for accepting the important role as the governing body of the Victorian Schools providing proximate, responsive, and accountable governance to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the students.

TEREA acknowledges that the reform of the governance of EREA has been a long and intensive process for everyone engaged and thanks all those involved over the years including and especially the school leaders and communities, for the commitment shown.

An updated governance structure is set out in Attachment 1.

It is timely to recommit ourselves that the focus of continuing to provide our students and their families with a Liberating Education based on Gospel Spirituality within an Inclusive Community committed to Justice and Solidarity ensuring safety, wellbeing, and optimal learning opportunities.

The VSL Board and CEO Andy Kuppe look forward to working together with Mr. Tony Paatsch and the School Advisory Council through the Chair, Ms. Shona Eland in the mission of Catholic education and giving life to the vision of Blessed Edmund Rice in accord with our respective governance responsibilities.

The will of God be done in this and everything we undertake.

Yours in Edmund,



Janelle Howell

Chair, Edmund Rice Education
Australia Victorian Schools Limited



Peter Turner

Acting Chair, Trustees Edmund Rice
Education Australia

Attachment 1: VSL Governance Structure as at 1 January 2024

cc: *Edmund Rice Education Australia Victorian Schools Limited Board
Trustees of Edmund Rice Education Australia
Andy Kuppe, Edmund Rice Education Australia Victorian Schools Limited CEO*

Edmund Rice Education Australia Victorian Schools Limited (VSL) Governance Structure as at 1 January 2024

