It is with much pleasure that I present to you the VCSPB Annual Report for 2011; my last report as chair and a member of the VCSPB Council. As a founding member of the VCSPB, together with Robert Bertagnolio and Robert Papworth, I leave the VCSPB after serving our maximum terms on the Council allowed under the Constitution. Danielle Trezise will also be leaving the Council, having resigned her position held since 2008.

Council members
The current VCSPB Council members representing the Executive are:

Dino Rebellato (Chair)
Robert Bertagnolio (Deputy Chair)*
Matthew McIntyre
Danielle Trezise
Rob Papworth
Carl Stevens (CECV representative)

with the rest of the members comprising:

Tony Bentley*
Lisa Hughes
Jack Sheehan”
Shayne Annett*
Liz Grogan*
Tracey O’Neill”

* Victorian representatives on the National Catholic Education Commission – Parent Committee
# joined the Council in 2011

Vacancies exist in Sandhurst and Sale and each Melbourne region.

We thank the following Council members who have left in 2010/11 to date for their contributions, Helene McNamara and David Sanders being founding members of the VCSPB:

Chris Caldow
Harold Keily

Helene McNamara
David Sanders
Meetings
The Council schedules four meetings a year. The Executive meets between meetings.

Key Interest Areas in 2011
Keeping in mind the purposes of the VCSPB to provide a forum to represent parents of students in Victorian Catholic schools, to promote parents as partners in education with the school, Church and the community, to promote the principles of Catholic education in collaboration with the Diocesan Bishops and promote Catholic schools as schools of first choice for Catholic families, the key interest areas for the VCSPB in 2011 are:

- Funding of Catholic schools
- Curriculum and Transparent Reporting

Focus in 2011 – Communication
The key focus this year was to implement our Communication Strategy to:

1. raise the profile of the VCSPB in the parent and school communities
2. raise awareness amongst parent communities of key issues in education
3. provide a link for parents to express their concerns, needs and views

To enable this focus
- each school was provided a reserved email account (vcspbcontact@schooldomainname) allowing for direct contact to school parent bodies
- each Council member worked through the year to obtain a current contact person in each school

We currently have 68.2 per cent of schools who have nominated a contact person or activated the reserved email account. Our endeavours to increase this number will continue into 2012.

The ongoing elements of the Strategy include our:
- website: www.vcspb.catholic.edu.au
- newsletter, the Bulletin, highlighting our key interest areas and providing a resource for parents and school bodies.
- Council member contact with parents through schools.

To further inform our Strategy, an online survey of parents was conducted.

As part of the Strategy the VCSPB website will be redeveloped in 2012.
Links and Representation
The VCSPB has established and has on-going links with government and Catholic organisations relevant to parents including:

- Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT)
- Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) – Parent Group
- Victorian Independent Education Union (VIEU)
- Victorian Parents Council
- National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) – Parent Committee
- other Catholic parent bodies around Australia

During 2011, Council members attended diocesan educational board meeting, VCAA Parent Group meetings, NCEC Parent Committee meetings, VIT seminars, Spirit Dream in Burning Hearts Conference in Sydney and the National Catholic Education Convention in Adelaide.

Submissions
The VCSPB made the following submissions during 2011:

- Review of Funding for Schools (Gonski Review)
- Victorian Parliamentary enquiry into the education of gifted and talented students

VCSPB Constitution and Handbook
To facilitate a robust review of how best the VCSPB can contribute to Catholic education today and into the future, the Council has undertaken a review of the 2007 Constitution under which it operates. A review will also consider the representational basis of Council membership and the Council member tenure to improve continuity. It is anticipated the new constitution will be ratified in 2012.

An operational handbook incorporating information, policies, procedures and protocols has been developed. As a ‘living document’ it will continue to evolve.

To all parents who have supported the VCSPB during 2011, a warm and heartfelt thank you for your support and interest in advancing the objectives of the VCSPB.

Dino Rebellato, Chair