



CNA
Catholic Network Australia

ANNUAL REPORT 2020–2021



Catholic Network Australia Limited

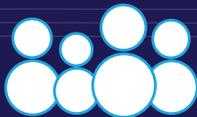
Catholic Network Australia Limited (CNA) is a subsidiary company of Catholic Resources Ltd. It was set up by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference to advance and promote the religious, educational and general charitable purposes of the Church and its entities. The focus of the company was to procure and manage secure, private information technology and telecommunications networks and other associated services for the benefit of the Church and related sectors.

Participants

The following dioceses, colleges and religious institutes are currently CNA Participants:



1,400+
EDUCATION SITES



650,000
STUDENTS AND STAFF

- Marist Brothers

New South Wales

- Archdiocese of Sydney
- Diocese of Bathurst
- Diocese of Broken Bay
- Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle
- Diocese of Parramatta
- Diocese of Wagga Wagga
- Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes

Queensland

- Archdiocese of Brisbane
- Diocese of Cairns
- Diocese of Rockhampton
- Diocese of Townsville
- All Hallows' School, Brisbane

South Australia

- Archdiocese of Adelaide
- Diocese of Port Pirie

Tasmania

- Archdiocese of Hobart

Victoria

- Archdiocese of Melbourne
- Diocese of Ballarat
- Diocese of Sale
- Diocese of Sandhurst

Western Australia

- Archdiocese of Perth
- Diocese of Broome
- Diocese of Bunbury
- Diocese of Geraldton.

Key activity

Since its establishment in 2009, CNA has aggregated the purchasing of network services and software licences for participating Catholic schools and Catholic education offices.

Today, CNA oversees one of the largest aggregations of private networks in the country. It also fosters collaboration through the use of technology – sharing approaches to support Catholic educators and their communities across states and territories – to enhance teaching and student learning outcomes and the administration of schools. The effectiveness and impact of this collaboration was particularly evident during the lockdown periods experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic throughout 2020 and 2021.

From the chair

It is with great pleasure that the CNA board presents the 2020–2021 annual report of Catholic Network Australia Limited.



CNA provides services to almost 650,000 staff and students across almost 1,500 Catholic schools and Catholic education offices across Australia. CNA's reach spans schools located from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Thursday Island, in the north, to Sacred Heart Catholic School, Geeveston, in the south; from St Augustine's Parish Primary School, Currumbin Waters, in the east, to St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic School, Carnarvon, in the west.

2020–2021 was a period of significant change for this well-established network, as CNA Participants' commercial engagement shifted from being a single source to multiple providers, introducing multiple underlying carriers and creating an increase in competitive tension for all. As the need for reliable and resilient internet connectivity continues to grow to support the delivery of teaching, learning and administration outcomes, this change was welcomed by CNA.

The process involved going to market to invite proposals from larger vendors and a range of smaller vendors (including aggregators capable of building the required networks using their own infrastructure or that of other carriers). Following a successful expression of interest (EoI) process, the CNA board agreed to invite Telstra, Optus, Vocus, TPG, AARNET, Superloop, Broadband Solutions and Comscentre to respond to a request for proposal (RFP).

The RFP was satisfactorily completed in December 2020 with a master services agreement (MSA) executed between CNA and Comscentre and another executed between CNA and Telstra (the incumbent). The dioceses of Cairns, Parramatta and Willcannia-Forbes, and Catholic Education South Australia (CESA) have since signed MSA-based participant services agreements with Telstra, while the Archdiocese



of Brisbane, the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) and Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) have signed MSA-based participant services agreements with Comscentre.

With these new contracts, CNA effectively introduced a choice of carrier for the first time to CNA Participants, with no obligation on any Participant to engage with either if the offerings, as presented, did not meet individual needs.

Comscentre and Telstra both met core CNA requirements, offering an increase of more than double the existing bandwidth capacity with a reduced monthly fee. With this, both providers addressed the increasing demand for bandwidth experienced by schools and offices across the country – particularly with online (remote) learning demands during COVID-19-related lockdowns – without imposing additional costs at

this price-sensitive time. In some cases, the new agreement presents material savings when compared with the current Telstra agreement, scheduled to expire in January 2022.

Following a number of years of operational efficiencies driving the opportunity to accumulate above-budget financial performance, CNA is now in a comfortable financial position. The board is considering the most appropriate focus for future investment to ensure its strategic objectives are delivered.

The board is grateful to the many people who have made CNA the success it is.

Our thanks go to those who serve with dedication on board subcommittees. Those on the Education Standing Committee continue to plan the enhancement of services delivered on the network, and coordinate joint procurement activities and gatherings. CNA's Negotiation Team, with assistance from



Alcumus Consulting, through Ms Ailin Dolfi, have been very successful in working with Telstra, Comscentre and Microsoft.

Delivery of information and communication technology (ICT) services to Participants requires close cooperation with service partners. This includes Telstra, Comscentre, Catholic Education Melbourne (now Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS)), CEWA and CEnet. We thank them for their service to Participants.

I would also like to thank my fellow directors for their contribution to this worthwhile platform.

Peter Matthey

Services summary

A range of services is available to Participant CNA sites. Some of the key services are described below.

Education

CNA's Contemporary Learning Working Group (CLWG), together with the Digital Learning Network (DLN), continued to operate virtually, with just one face-to-face meeting over 2020–2021.

The CLWG provides advice to CNA to achieve better student learning outcomes and value for the education sector with the use of enterprise IT systems, web-based applications and resources. It specifically advises on:

- initiatives to share experience
- ways to lead and support Australian Catholic educators and their communities

- opportunities to aggregate purchasing ICT services and technologies
- emerging technologies that support contemporary learning.

The purpose of the DLN is to develop and provide resources which support digital pedagogy in member dioceses. This is achieved through:

- networking
- creating and curating resources
- exploring research into current and emerging agendas
- establishing a repository of resources for DLN members to access and use within their diocese
- supporting pedagogical change and

professional learning through the use of digital technologies.

The DLN is a practitioner network within the auspices of CNA. The group contains representatives from CNA member and non-member dioceses.

As leaders of learning in the Australian Catholic education context, the work of the DLN is informed by a number of imperatives that include, but are not limited to, the Alice Springs (*Mparntwe*) Education Declaration (2020) and the *Instrumentum Laboris* (Educating Today and Tomorrow: A Renewing Passion, 2014).

The DLN builds on the work of the CLWG, particularly the initiatives that focus on eLearning, online collaboration,

digital citizenship and the ICT and Digital Technologies demands of the Australian Curriculum.

The DLN met virtually in September 2020 and face-to-face in Cairns in May 2021, with some members attending the Cairns session virtually.

CNA Forum

The planned CNA Forum, with its associated STEM MAD national event, was not held in 2020–2021 due to travel restrictions related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Telecommunications

CNA's telecommunication services include internet access and internet data, site connections, jurisdiction-based virtual private networks, network router monitoring and management, and router lease and maintenance. These are all sourced via CNA's MSAs with Telstra and Comscentre, contracted directly by the

CNA Participants through their service contracts. (Please note that Comscentre rebranded as Orro from late 2021.)

The private network CNA established in 2009 remains Australia's only truly national school education network and provides data services to approximately 1,100 of the 1,500 schools under the CNA umbrella. The establishment of the network was possible because various entities within the Catholic education sector combined their energy and resources to participate in a project that delivered mutually beneficial outcomes.

While all of these Participants are migrating to their new services over the coming year, as at 30 June 2021, Telstra is still the provider of data carriage services through the MSA. The CNA telecommunications commitment represents substantial direct financial transactions between Participants and Telstra. The aggregate spend in



2020–2021 across all Telstra services for Participants was just under \$24 million.

Capital works costs at school sites

Since its inception in 2017, Telstra’s CNA Installation Works and Service Fund (IWSF) has invested over \$2 million in works and services relating to infrastructure (installation and relocation), as needed. The fund comprises contributions equal to a percentage of the amount spent by Participants on their Telstra services which exceeded their annual minimum spend. The IWSF contributions are pooled so they can be transferred to other Participants across CNA.

In the 2020–2021 financial year, \$236,000 was allocated for telecommunications infrastructure works for Newman College, Smithfield, a new secondary school in the Diocese of Cairns, as well as for service relocations at a number of Victorian schools.

Assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic

When the first of the COVID-19-related lockdowns were experienced in 2020, a large portion of schools were required to move all learning online. This presented a challenge for many families across the public and Catholic sectors, where access to both devices and data were either absent or insufficient.

In response to this challenge, Telstra provided sets of 5,000 SIM cards to each of the government-sector education departments and to the Catholic education sector across the country. These were allocated on a needs basis through jurisdictional bodies (dioceses and commissions).

In 2018, Telstra established a Bandwidth Services Technology Incentive Fund (BSTIF) to facilitate the purchase of Telstra products and services for educational purposes. A number of

CNA Participants were able to access this fund to procure Wi-Fi dongles for students to use with these SIM cards. This enabled disadvantaged families to have free, filtered internet at home for use by students to engage with remote learning.

More than \$200,000 was accessed from the BSTIF to provide 2,300 dongles to accompany the Telstra SIMs for Students program for use during the various school closures.

The IWSF is still available to assist with charges for installation works and related services for Telstra sites, typically at new schools but increasingly used for moves, additions and changes for new administration buildings. The balance of the accumulated value of the IWSF will be carried over to the new MSA-based contracts so sites that have chosen to remain with Telstra can continue to access this fund as needed.

Microsoft licensing

CNA is continuing to engage with Microsoft on behalf of all interested Participants, seeking to influence key outcomes for the next multi-year agreement, scheduled to start in April 2022.

It is expected that some of the outcomes will address:

- treating all CNA Participants as a single customer for Azure as well as licences, allowing smaller dioceses to benefit from volume discounts prompted by larger dioceses' usage of Azure
- increased flexibility for all dioceses, introducing a new 'bundle' of licensing functionality and allowing for changes at the annual anniversary, acknowledging how the volume of licences, as well as the type of licences and their inclusions, can change over time
- removing or reducing minimum commitments, particularly for smaller diocese(s)
- reviewing the current named user licence model, which requires a full licence for each named user. CNA believes this unfairly imposes costs on dioceses who have a large volume of casual or part-time staff.

Financial accounts

Notes:

1. The summary of the financial statements of Catholic Network Australia Limited was extracted from the audited 30 June 2021 financial statements. These are available upon request from the company secretary or via a company search of the Australian Charities and Non-for-profits Commission (ACNC).
2. The Statement of Comprehensive Income is to be read in conjunction with the notes to, and forming part of, the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Revenue			
Revenue from services provided	2	669,251	670,624
Other revenue	2	5,298	15,339
Total revenue		674,549	685,963
Consultancy and marketing expenses	3	291,132	370,098
CENet management fees		162,998	158,244
Legal expenses		62,596	34,838
Accounting fees		52,604	55,081
Audit fee expense		14,985	17,000
Corporate registrations		6,862	6,878
Subscriptions		5,172	11,160
General expenses		3,350	5,307
Seminars and conferences		–	8,006
Educational services expenses		–	16,015
Total expenditure		599,699	682,627
Surplus for the year		74,850	3,336
Other comprehensive income		–	–
Total comprehensive income for the year		74,850	3,336
Retained surplus of the company		74,850	3,336

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,525,540	1,290,317
Trade and other receivables	5	357,428	683,813
Prepayments	7	7,665	1,929
Other current assets	6	4,175	7,176
Total current assets		1,894,808	1,983,235
Total assets		1,894,808	1,983,235
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	8	479,140	642,417
Total current liabilities		479,140	642,417
Total liabilities		479,140	642,417
Net assets		1,415,668	1,340,818
Equity			
Members' funds			
Retained earnings		1,415,668	1,340,818
Total members' funds		1,415,668	1,340,818

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN
EQUITY**
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR
ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2019	1,337,482	1,337,482
Net surplus for the year	3,336	3,336
Total other comprehensive income for the year	–	–
Balance at 30 June 2020	1,340,818	1,340,818
Balance at 1 July 2020	1,340,818	1,340,818
Net surplus for the year	74,850	74,850
Total other comprehensive income for the year	–	–
Balance at 30 June 2021	1,415,668	1,415,668

Key people

CNA Directors

Peter Matthey (CNA Board Chairperson)
Pamela Betts
Neil McGoran
Debra Sayce

CNA Education Standing Committee

Greg Whitby (CEnet – Acting Chairperson)
Doug Ashleigh (BCE)
Sharyn Creed (BCE) (*Resigned June 2021*)
Edward Simons (CEWA)
(*Resigned March 2021*)
Matthew Ferrinda (CEWA)
(*Appointed April 2021*)
Jim Miles (CECV) (*Resigned February 2021*)
Philip Roe (CECV) (*Appointed March 2021*)
Simon Lindsay (CECV)
Ben Beaton (CEWA)
Phil Proctor (CESA)
Leesa Jeffcoat (CEnet)
Robyn Finch (CEnet) (*Resigned April 2021*)
John Mula OAM (CESA) (*Representation changed from NCEC to CESA October 2020*)

Liam Garvey (National Catholic Education Commission) (*Appointed June 2021*)
Michael Haigh (Company Secretary)

CNA Negotiating Team

Tony Panetta (CEWA)
Jeff Peters (BCE)
Greg Whitby (CEnet)
Michael Haigh (Company Secretary)
Morris Newman (CECV)
(*Appointed December 2020*)
Phil Proctor (CESA)

CNA Contemporary Learning Working Group

Doug Ashleigh (Brisbane Catholic Education – Chair)
Matthew Ferrinda (CEWA)
Simon Lindsay (CECV)
John Mula OAM (CESA)

Digital Learning Network

Committee
Vanessa Crouch (Diocese of Toowoomba – Chair)

JJ Purton Jones (Diocese of Lismore Catholic Schools – Deputy Chair)
Matthew Ferrinda (CEWA)
Danielle Purdy (MACS)
Wendy Tisbury (Diocese of Cairns)

Delegates

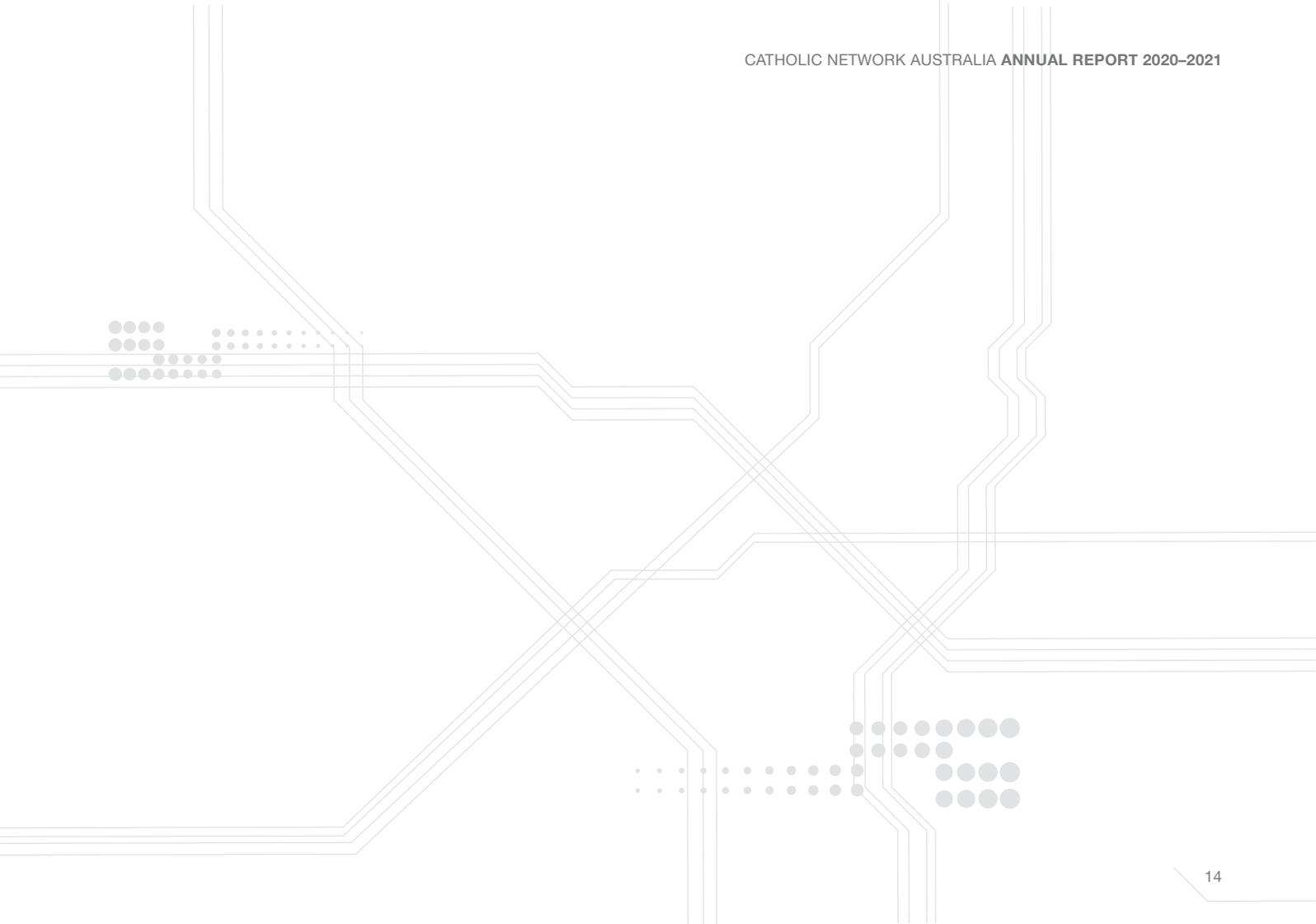
Emma Fowler (CESA)
Kevin Cummins (Diocese of Ballarat)
Vickie Vance (Diocese of Bathurst)
Bronwyn Edmunds (Brisbane Catholic Education)
Lora Bance (Catholic Education Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn)
Joe Pearson (Catholic Education Tasmania)

Office Bearer

Company Secretary
Michael Haigh (July 2020 – June 2021)

CEnet Service Delivery Team

Chris Burrows and Garry Anderson (Service Delivery Team)
Ian Gregory (Technical Officer)





Contact

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