



# Combined Secondary Cluster Meeting Minutes

Venue: Zoom Online Meeting

Date: 7pm, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021

Broken Bay Catholic School Parents

[www.brokenbayparentcouncil.com](http://www.brokenbayparentcouncil.com)

[catholicschoolparents@dbb.org.au](mailto:catholicschoolparents@dbb.org.au)

## In attendance:

Kirsty Liston, CSP Rep, MacKillop Warnervale, Central Coast Cluster Rep	Carmel Hewitt, CSBB Student Achievement Team - Parent Engagement
Necola Chisholm, Co CSP Chair	Jo Spek, Evangelisation and Catechesis team CSBB
Natalie Tunstead, Family Liaison Officer MacKillop Catholic College, Warnervale	Michal Brenchley, Project Officer, CSP
Andrew Fraser; CSBB Lead Student Achievement	Lynn Hames, CSBB Marketing and Communications
Angela Whitby; CatholicCare General Manager	Una Morrison, CSBB Promotions
Anne Duncan; CSBB Lead Capability & Enablement	Danny Casey, CSBB Director of Schools
Julia Conroy; CSBB Executive Support, Lead	Celeste Boonaerts, St Peter's Tuggerah
Karina Baftirovski MCCW	Charmaine Wan, Mercy Chatswood
Katerina Ross - St Brigid's Lake Munmorah	Jacqui Lane - St Paul's, Manly
Niamh (Neve) Collins - St Paul's Manly	Rebecca Berrell - Mater Maria Warriewood (Rebecca Berrell)
Tony McLeod, CSBB Lead Governance	

ITEM / PURPOSE	DISCUSSION	ACTION / FOLLOW-UP
Welcome Prayer/ Welcome to Country	Kirsty Liston Rebecca Berrell	
Welcome & Introductions	Necola Chisholm	
<b>CSBB Update</b>	<p>On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021 we held a Virtual 'Happy Hour' just to have an informal check in on how our CSP Reps &amp; Parent Teams were going and to also share what they were doing to engage with other parents. What came from that check in is that families were starting to feel stressed, there were some inconsistency across the Diocese and HBL was very challenging especially for the younger years with having both parents trying to also work from home.</p> <p>Feedback and concerns were taken back to the CSBB. From that they thought it would be beneficial for some of the Workstream Leaders and Danny to attend the upcoming Combined CSP Representative Meetings to update parents and listen to any further feedback.</p>	

Danny Casey – Director of Schools

The CSBB wanted to reach out and update parents and were grateful for the opportunity to do this at the CSP Representatives Meeting.

Danny mentioned that there were some exciting things coming up in the Towards 2025 project but will update further at a later date due to the current Covid situation and the impact this was having on our families & schools

The CSBB has 2 main priorities at present:

1. Making sure that whatever plan the CSBB puts in place that the health and safety to the teachers, Students and families is paramount and nothing they do will compromise this.
2. Dialogue – regular communication is being made between the CSNSW (Catholic Schools NSW) and the CSBB. Feedback is being communicated every day and he had also been invited by the NSW Education Minister to participate in a smaller discussion group and had said that greater & stronger clarity needed to be communicated to all.

Danny understands the impact and uncertainty that this is having on families and they want to get all students back to face to face learning as soon as it was safe to and wanted this opportunity to be able to brief the CSP Reps so they could then forward the information back to the parent groups that the CSBB are being listened to by the Minister and feedback actioned upon.

CatholicCare – Angela Whitby, General Manager

Angela has been talking with her Team and they are trying to manage the overwhelming need for their services.

They are trying to change the mindset; Are we being ‘Locked In’ or Are we being locked in, to keep ‘Us Safe’? CatholicCare are providing all their normal services, plus additional Covid related Services. Many of their normal Face to Face services have now changed to virtual but has given them more opportunity to offer more because of this.

Wanted to remind that there is available Emergency Relief Funds by way of food vouchers etc. and provided the following link for further information <https://www.catholiccareddb.org.au/family-youth-children/emergency-relief/>

Mental Health and Parental Anxiety is on the rise, but families must remember to give themselves a break and let go of all the less important things.

While there is help there are not enough resources to cope with the demand and they have waiting lists. Please if you know of a family in desperate need, please refer them to the Family Connects Support, they can get interim support (please see attached PDF).

It is very important to look out for each other and ourselves at this time.

Andrew Fraser

They have received recent advice for the Year 12 students, but this is always changing. Conversations are constant regarding equality and fairness across all NSW Year 12 students

Covid Health & Safety Guidelines are currently being looked at and focus on Health and Wellbeing is a high priority, especially in the Hot Spot areas.

16<sup>th</sup> August is not a mandatory return date for Year 12 and trial exams are subject to health. If trials are not able to go ahead, assessments will be developed, and practical aspects will be looked at.

The CSBB is still waiting for greater clarity from the Government and the CSNSW. But the CSBB is stepping away from the return to school date of 16 August and looking to NESSA Guidelines to ensure students will not be disadvantaged.

Tony McLeod

Completing your HSC is a rite of passage. He apologised for 'hijacking' the CSP Meeting, but they really care about our feedback and want to listen and act on any concerns that we have.

Observations:

- Dissonance

What the Government is saying is 'we are in a lockdown as there is a Covid outbreak, but then its ok to send all our Year 12's back to school'

- Practicality

Rapid antigen testing – they don't even have the tests available in Australia yet

Vaccinations – these are only being currently offered to those Year 12 students that live in the 8 LGA areas

Fee Relief

CSBB has reintroduced Fee Relief Scheme and they encourage families to contact them if they need assistance and asked CSP Reps to encourage any families they knew that need help to contact them

<https://www.csodbb.catholic.edu.au/the-parent-hub/fee-relief-during-covid-19-2/>

**BBCSP CSP Rep Debrief**

Rebecca Berrell, Mater Maria; Can Year 12's go back into school at all at present?

Danny Casey: Yes, for the balance of things that cannot be done at home

Andrew Fraser: Some schools are organizing smaller cohorts to return to school

Celeste Boonaerts, St Peter's; If a school is in an area where it is not lockdown but has students which live in a locked down area, what does that mean?

Tony McLeod: Education is considered high priority so students would be able to go to school.

Kirsty Liston, Mackillop; General theme from her school is that it takes a lot for families to ask for help and

there are many students that must work to help support their families and they don't want to disclose this information as its embarrassing

Regarding Year 12 students, what about the Year 11 students that are sitting HSC subjects. Non-Year 12 parents have many unanswered questions because of the focus on the Year 12.

Tony McLeod: Thanked Kirsty for her honesty and true emotion and that we all have true advocacy in Danny Casey, nobody will be judged for reaching out for help or giving open honest feedback.

Danny Casey: They are battling on all fronts for the CSBB to be heard and listened to.

Andrew Fraser: This has been brought to the attention of the CSBB, that in fact many of the students are 'front line workers' and are at risk.

They do realise that the exit plan will look very different to last year and thanked Kirsty again for her openness and honesty.

Kirsty Liston, McKillop; What is the exit plan going to look like? How are the kids that need additional learning support going to be supported?

Andrew Fraser: These concerns are being looked at; we don't have the same access as the public system do.

Rebecca Berrell, Mater Maria; What is evident is that everyone's wellbeing is of a concern and we are all affected including teachers. What can we do to show our appreciation to the teachers? To note both her schools are circulating wellbeing information.

Celeste Boonaerts, St Peter's; Really must look at the transitional years – last year's Year 7 and now Year 8 they need additional support.

Andrew Fraser: School is much more than just for the education; its where social identities are formed, and this is a focus being undertaken by the Wellbeing Team.

Katerina Baftirovski; Kirsty you are doing an amazing job and echoed what we are all feeling. Their FLO popped post up on FB just reminding everyone to take a step back and take some time out for ourselves so we can reset, we as parents sometimes forget to do that and then can't see a way out.

Danny Casey; discussed that the CSBB needed to send an acknowledgement out to parents.

Niamh Collins, St Paul's; Echo's all that has been said and felt in this evening's discussion and something else that needs to be remembered is that many families in our communities don't come from Australia so are also trying to cope with that aspect

	<p>St Paul's had the parent teacher interviews a couple of weeks into the HBL which was helpful as to have a catch up and a change to engage with the teachers</p> <p>St Paul's also held the Annual Vinnie's Winter Sleep Out and engaged through the evening via zoom activities. It was a good chance for the boys to reflect and appreciate what they do have and that there are many others out there that are also trying to cope with so many other issues, including homelessness.</p> <p>Danny Casey: Advised that St Leo's had just raised \$21,000 during their Winter Sleep out</p> <p>Anne Duncan: Appreciated all the positive feedback that they were hearing.</p> <p>Charmaine Wan, Mercy; Must give credit to all the staff and teachers at Mercy. The teachers and students had recently held a dress up day and had pre reordered messages (teachers &amp; students) and sent them to each other.</p> <p>Year 10 is currently in the middle of subject selection and a virtual information was held which was very helpful.</p> <p>Homework Hall Passes were also being given out during HBL</p> <p>Carmel: Just to note that the BBCSP had moved a few of the Agenda items around for tonight's meeting but we will discuss these items at a later date.</p> <p>Natalie Tunstead, St Peter's; Her daughter is in Year 12, she is feeling so supported during this time. They have Wellbeing Check Ins and are having lots of conversations about what they can and can't control during this time.</p> <p>Close of meeting 8.40pm</p>	
CCSP Update	Roger O'Sullivan Award extended	

Key Meeting Points / Action items for Broken Bay CSP Management Team	
1.	BBCSP will continue to develop and share resources around Families Staying Connected during Lockdown with CSP Reps & Parent Teams
2.	CSBB has informed the CSP that they have implemented HBL Plus to support schools due to the extended lockdown and thank the CSP for their feedback.
Next Meeting Date & Venue	
Meeting Closed	