

ORANA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING
ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT

17TH NOVEMBER 2022

PREPARED AND DELIVERED BY CRAIG PETTA

Good evening parents, teachers and other attendees of our Orana school community. I would like to welcome and thank you all for attending the 2022 Annual Community Meeting.

As with all years, 2022 brought with it many challenges that the school as a community has had to face.

Covid-19 continued to impact families and the school, especially in the first half of the year, with changing restrictions, health reporting and of course the actual operational impact on teaching in the classroom. Thanks goes to the school leadership team, the teachers and parents for their efforts and for working together to navigate the school and children through both this year and the previous 2 years of this pandemic.

Additionally, the economy has and will continue to impact families in 2022 and into 2023, with cost of living pressures driven by high inflation and the continued rise in interest rates. The Advisory Council is, and remains, mindful of these pressures on our community and the expectation for these pressures to continue into next year. We also acknowledge the many different circumstances in addition to inflation and rate rises that families find themselves in, particularly those still recovering from the financial impact of the last 3 years of Covid-19.

Despite these challenges, and as we approach the end of the school year, we celebrate another year for the community to be proud of. Orana continues to excel. Amongst other things, we are an Apple Distinguished School, operate a very successful inhouse run OSHC and a music program that continues and is constantly the envy of all schools in the state. All strong points of difference that draw more and more children and families to our community every year.

The Advisory Council assists Orana in a number of ways, not the least with the financial direction of the school. I am happy to confirm the school is in a financially sound position and want to acknowledge the school leadership team and in particular Ann Fissioli, our Finance Officer, for her continued care of the financial wellbeing of our school, and for her close interaction with the Finance Committee of the Advisory Council. I would also like to acknowledge Andrew Council in assisting the committee in a consulting role.

This year, in addition to the Finance Committee, the Advisory Council has established and effectively run multiple sub committees, including the...

1. Capital Works Committee which assisted and approved the works for the OSHC terrace and the soon to commence Science Block/Senior Toilet project.
2. Uniform Committee which has conducted a full review, with input from all stakeholders (children included), of current uniform issues and is currently reviewing multiple new uniform options, in consultation with the school community, with the purpose of modernising

and updating the school uniform with particular attention on comfort and style. This project will continue into 2023.

3. Maintenance Committee which has costed and implemented a 5 year maintenance plan for the school.

Other initiatives the Advisory Council were involved in were...

- Crosswalk and line marking across the car park
- Air Conditioning replacement program continued
- Security camera upgrade
- Automatic gate (thanks to the P&F)
- The very popular installation of AFL goals (combined project with P&F)
- New carpet and flooring to the library, staffroom and pre-primary.
- Year 2 furniture upgrade
- New iPads for Year 2 class sets
- Ventilation audit and purchase of air purifiers where required
- Installation of viewing windows in doors where required
- New signage installed throughout the school
- Storm damage repairs (ceiling, gate, shade sails, server power supply)
- Paving re-levelling project

Last month the school had a Registration Audit conducted by an independent Government body and I would like to acknowledge Dee, Kathryn, Hallie, Sue, Deb, Denise and Ann in particular for all the hard work and hours of preparation involved in what was a successful audit.

During that audit, I was asked about what made the school special, what was the one word that came to mind when I thought of the school. My answer was "community". The strength of this school has always been and is in the people, teachers, parents, families and children. I have had the pleasure of being a member of the School Board and now Advisory Council for 6 years, and this sense of community has only grown greater every year.

At this time, I would like to thank my fellow Advisory Council members for all their effort, support and the generous volunteering of their time. You are a group that has brought varied talent, experience and diverse dialogue to our council that has been valuable in assisting the school manage its ever changing needs and challenges.

I encourage anyone who feels they have something to offer, to consider putting their hand up for a position on the Advisory Council. Our school and our children will be richer for it.

I would like to finish by saying a big thank you to all the teachers and staff for continuing to put our children at the centre of all that you do. We are fortunate to be blessed with your dedication to both your vocation and our children.

Craig Petta
School Advisory Council Chair