

<b>POSITION TITLE:</b>	<b>Indigenous Liaison Officer</b>
<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>Newman Catholic College, Smithfield</b>
<b>REPORTS TO:</b>	<b>Principal</b>
<b>CLASSIFICATION:</b>	<b>Remuneration in accordance with the <i>Catholic Employing Authorities Single Enterprise Collective Agreement – Diocesan Schools of Queensland</i></b> (Available at <a href="http://www.cns.catholic.edu.au">www.cns.catholic.edu.au</a> ) <b>Level 3</b>
<b>AUTHORISATION:</b>	<b>Executive Director</b>

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICES – DIOCESE OF CAIRNS

Catholic Education Services in the Diocese of Cairns is a dynamic and growing organisation that is actively inviting schools to co-create with us, schools that are places of rich learning for now and into the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century.

Our vision is to *offer every student in every school a world class education enriched by their lived encounter with the Catholic Faith.*

Catholic Education Services is committed to this vision through Co-Leadership with schools to build communities of learning that provide a safe, nurturing and academically challenging environment. Our schools are places where we create opportunities for every student and every staff member so that they are inspired to contribute to our society, innovate, explore possibilities, and achieve excellence.

Catholic Education Services in the Diocese of Cairns embraces thirty (30) schools including twenty (20) primary schools, two (2) Prep to Year 12 colleges and eight (8) secondary colleges. One of these colleges is a Special Assistance College with campuses in Cairns, Cooktown, and Edmonton. This community also includes Catholic Education Services located in Cairns itself. Over the next five years there are two new schools planned.

All schools and colleges, except three, are within a two-hour drive of Cairns. Cooktown, Waibeni Island (Thursday Island) and Weipa are accessed by daily flights and located in some of the most beautiful parts of the country. In total, there are 11 500 students and 1500 staff.

Leadership and strategic management of Catholic Education Services is the responsibility of the Executive Director of Catholic Education. Through a team of professionals, and in Co-Leadership with principals, the Executive Director manages and facilitates a number of significant delegations which include:

- Support of the mission of the Church as delivered through Catholic Education
- Support of schools by providing services that strengthen school capacity
- Provision of leadership and forward planning to develop organisational capability
- Distribution to schools of government allocated funds and their accountability
- Monitoring quality of schools and compliance/accountability with requirements of governments, Church, and parents
- Within limits, provision of some centralised, specialised student services, where this is the most effective and efficient approach

Our staff are supported to experience success and satisfaction in their vital role.

Cairns also offers many lifestyle opportunities that can be found in few other places and is surrounded by World Heritage listed areas including the Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree Rainforest, all within an hour's journey from the growing City of Cairns. It is the gateway to our Asian neighbours with direct flights to China, Japan and Singapore as well as having direct flights to all the east coast capital cities, Darwin, and Queensland's Sunshine and Gold Coasts.

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## NEWMAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE OVERVIEW

Newman Catholic College, co-located on James Cook University site, Smithfield, is Cairns Catholic Education's newest college, joining a system of 29 other catholic schools and colleges. Opening in 2022, with approximately 135 Year 7 students and growing a year level each year until Year 12 is reached in 2027, its location on and interaction with the University presents endless opportunities to meet the diverse learning needs of our students. Newman Catholic College works collaboratively with James Cook University so that learning and teaching is enhanced at all year levels.

Our curriculum at Newman Catholic College centres on design, digital and inquiry-based learning. It is strategic in its intent to promote the development of skills such as problem solving, critical analysis, and creative thinking; a curriculum that is innovative, digital and design focused, and forward thinking for all students, wherever they are on their learning journey.

Newman Catholic College has as its heart the Gospel and as such supports an inclusive enrolment policy. Our charism is guided by our patron saint, St John Henry Newman with an underlay of St Francis of Assisi and his approach to ecology. Through this we hope that students see themselves as led to humility before the mystery and wonder of our universe (Psalm 104 and Psalm 148). It is our desire that through growth in ecological awareness students will be encouraged to participate in practical programs and initiatives that serve others.

Staff play a vital role at Newman Catholic College in developing opportunities of holistic education for young people and promoting the message of Christ. It is essential that staff see themselves in genuine partnership with families and the wider community, and together, seek to support the Newman Charism. Young people in our care are invited to develop skills based on the positive faith filled role modelling provided by their staff, families, and community. Teaching practices at Newman Catholic College will be in line with our Newman Catholic College Learning Framework and Standards of Practice.

## PURPOSE OF THE ROLE

The role and responsibilities of the Indigenous Liaison Officer (ILO) is primarily one of communication and liaison between diocesan Colleges, Catholic Education Services and local Indigenous people, communities and agencies to increase student engagement and outcomes for Indigenous students. The position has a strong cultural focus that extends to advice and action on broad issues, including the enrichment of cultural awareness within the Colleges.

ILOs develop, promote and maintain communication networks between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, the parents or guardians, the community and the College. ILOs play a key role in providing knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, languages and cultures within Colleges. This understanding promotes respect and harmony. They conduct their role in collaboration with College staff, the leadership team and the principal.

The Indigenous Liaison Officer is part of the College team and supported by the Diocesan Indigenous Education team.

It is envisioned that all students will have equitable access to our Catholic College communities so that they may be supported to reach their full potential in development of not only their physical wellbeing but also their educational and faith journey.

## ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

**Typical duties performed may include, but are not limited to:**

- Establishing and expanding links with Indigenous communities and Newman Catholic College community;
- Facilitating and maintaining communication between stakeholders such as College staff, community and others to increase student engagement and outcomes;
- Supporting Indigenous parents in our community through regular contact, and liaison between Catholic Education Services and feeder school administrations;

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- Developing networks of agencies which can assist Colleges meet the holistic needs of Indigenous learners (education, health, justice, family support etc). Being a reference point for Colleges wishing to access these services;
- Provide support and advice to teachers to enhance student engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students;
- Maintain appropriate behaviours when engaging with children;
- Provide assistance in planning and fulfilling opportunities to enrich cultural awareness.
- Assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to engage in learning and assessment as directed by the classroom teacher;
- Supporting the development of a RAP for Newman Catholic College.

## GENUINE OCCUPATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Accountable and responsible for ensuring professional behaviour
- Ability to cope with own emotions and behaviour effectively
- Ability to comply with legislation and professional regulations to reduce the risk of harm to self and others
- Ability to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality
- Ability to communicate in English both verbally and in writing to meet necessary standards with respect to clarity, accuracy and professionalism appropriate to the position
- Ability to locate appropriate and relevant information from multiple sources and convey, integrate and implement knowledge in practice
- Ability to prioritise workloads and manage multiple tasks with competing timelines
- Ability to accept responsibility for own work
- Conversant with the Narragunnawali website and the key steps for developing a RAP
- Facilitate the prevention of child harm by recognising and responding appropriately
- Intermediate to advanced skills in Microsoft Office applications necessary to demonstrate the required range of skills and tasks
- Competent use of digital technologies necessary to demonstrate the required range of skills and tasks
- Ability to communicate using a traditional Indigenous language would be desirable.

### **Physical requirements of the position:**

- Work is normally performed in a typical interior office and/or classroom environment
- Work is normally performed in an outdoors environment and may involve frequent exposure to elements such as weather (sun/wind/rain), dust, dirt, fumes and/or loud noises
- Manoeuvring within the office/College environment appropriate to the position
- Frequent driving of a motor vehicle
- Frequent use of telecommunication and electronic equipment

## MANDATORY QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

- Unless an exemption applies all staff are required to hold a current Working With Children Blue Card
- Current drivers' licence
- Promote child safety at all times
- Proven capacity to build relationships with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community
- Demonstrated communication, interpersonal and negotiation skills necessary for good working relationships
- Ability to operate in teams and develop professional networks
- A strong demonstrated commitment to the objectives, vision, and ethos of Catholic Education
- Certificate III in Education Support (or equivalent) or willingness to commence

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## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Statement of Principles for Employment in Catholic Education
- Code of Conduct for Employees of Catholic Education
- Catholic Employing Authorities Single Enterprise Collective Agreement Diocesan Schools of Queensland

## HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED

How we do things is as important as what we do, therefore you will be assessed on your ability to use your experience, knowledge, skills and competencies confidentially with good judgement and wisdom.

You will be assessed on your ability to demonstrate the following four capabilities – Personal, Professional, Relational and Organisational within context to the key accountabilities identified above.

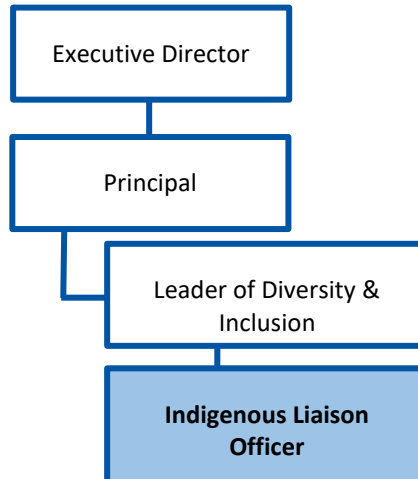
Capabilities	
Personal	Professional – Knowledge and Understanding
Engages in self-reflection	Is aware and responsive
Gives witness to personal faith and commitment	Integrates a Catholic stance in area of responsibility
Displays a sense of self-efficacy and personal identity	Supports and engages change processes
Displays intuition as well as logic and reason	Demonstrates appropriate styles of decision making
Projects confidence, optimism and resilience	Inspires a collegial purpose and vision
Demonstrates honesty and integrity	Supports efficient and robust structures and systems
Demonstrates ethically responsible behaviours	Focuses on core outcomes and accountabilities
Is morally courageous	Engages in workplace learning and relevant professional development
Demonstrates a commitment to personal spiritual growth	Operates with a commitment to sound educational focus
Displays imagination and vision	Operates with a spirit of service and professionalism
Integrates work and personal life	Develops moral purpose
Engages with the Catholic culture	Demonstrates capacity to provide professional support
Is culturally sensitive	
Social and Interpersonal	Organisational
Is relationally adept	Gives priority to the Church's mission in education
Is emotionally mature	Engages in future thinking, aware of the big picture
Is guided by the spirit and teachings of the Gospel	Supports organisational capacity to respond to contemporary and future needs
Communicates with confidence	Avoids imposing old paradigms on new realities
Is authentically present	Supports a growth promoting workplace
Displays a trusting disposition	Exercises committed and ethical stewardship
Supports collaborative and productive working environments	Contributes to organisational sustainability
Engages in positive politics	Supports a sharing organisational culture that focuses energies and talents
	Operates in fidelity to Catholic social teaching and environmental responsibilities

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## REPORTING & OTHER RELATIONSHIPS

The Administration Officer is accountable in the first instance to the Deputy Principal – Academic Studies and then to the Principal.



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The incumbent will need:

- An in-depth understanding of and commitment to the mission and objectives of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Cairns
- A sound working knowledge of the Catholic Education context and an appreciation for Catholic Education issues.

## EMPLOYEE ACCEPTANCE

The employee's signature signifies an understanding and acceptance that the content contained herein and forms an integral part of their employment terms and conditions.

I have read and acknowledge receipt of this Position Description:

**Employee Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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