



**BUILDING  
FUTURES**



# Registration REPORT SUMMARY

A summary of the Merici College Braddon  
**2022 Registration and School Improvement Report**  
for the Merici Community.



**CATHOLIC EDUCATION**  
Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn



# Registration

The major purpose of the Merici College Registration and School Improvement Panel visit by expert reviewers from Catholic Education Canberra Goulburn in July 2022 was to ensure the school is meeting the requirements of the ACT Education Act 2004 in relation to curriculum, teaching staff and educational resources.

The all-encompassing assessment which occurs every five years for each registered ACT non-Government school includes consideration of comprehensive documentation, interviews with members of the school community including staff, parents and students, examination of the College's financial management and viability, and a full audit of its school premises, buildings and facilities.

On the basis of the Panel visit and consideration of the documentation, it was determined that the school is maintained and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the ACT Education Act 2004.

**The panel therefore recommends that Merici College, Braddon be placed upon the register of schools as a registered secondary school for a further period of five years to 2027.**

An additional purpose of the Registration and School Improvement process is to provide considered guidance to support the school's identified improvement agenda in line with Catholic Education priorities. An extensive report about this was presented to the College Leadership Team expressed through five strategic domains with related recommendations, a broad summary of which is provided on the following pages.

# School Improvement

## CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND CULTURE

- Merici College is proudly Catholic and genuinely welcomes students from diverse faith backgrounds who feel included and respected. It is clear the College focuses on educating young women so that they are *'empowered to love life, have hope, be faithful and build futures more wondrous than they dare to dream'*.
- There are well-structured programs for religious celebrations enabling staff and students to participate in the rich traditions of the Church as well as celebrating the varied charisms of the religious orders which established the College. Interfaith dialogue further demonstrates the College's commitment to engaging with the broader religious community.
- The College maintains strong connections with its Alumni and provides regular opportunities for current and past students to engage together in religious, educational and social activities.
- Students speak highly of the available opportunities to engage in community outreach, particularly the Christian Service Learning and Volunteering Programs, which are enthusiastically embraced.

### Recommendations

- The College will continue to develop spaces within the school grounds which provide opportunities for students to engage with and connect to spiritual traditions, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander spiritualities, in a variety of ways.
- Opportunities to actively engage with remote or regional schools to involve students and staff with mission, outreach and the evangelising work of the Church will be explored.

## STAFF CAPACITY AND LEADERSHIP

- The College has a genuine commitment to building ongoing staff capacity in meeting the aspirational mission and vision of Merici College. Staff are enthusiastic, professional, dedicated and along with students and families are clearly fully invested in the success of Merici.
- A documented professional development plan exists for all teaching staff, including provision of opportunities to refine skills to ensure continued authorisation of the IB and embedding High Impact Teaching Practices (HITP) across the school.
- Students are provided with many valued opportunities to develop leadership. These include both formal, well-established leadership positions, the *Big Sister* program embedded in Pastoral Care groups, as well as informal opportunities provided via the planned curriculum.

### Recommendation

- The College will develop a framework to affirm and build on: existing practices of teacher reflection, coaching and feedback; engage with professional learning; build the capacity of the current Leadership Team; and, to advance the development of future leaders.



# School Improvement

## EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

- Merici College has an embedded positive learning culture that prioritises high expectations, led by the Leadership Team who have developed clear strategic alignment with system priorities and goals.
- Emphasis is placed on high impact, evidence-based teaching practice. Teachers actively engage in professional learning to implement practice change through CE's *Catalyst* initiative and the IB program.
- Staff are collaborative and support each other to evolve, deepen and refine their practice. They prioritise learning time, and are supported with the resources and materials required.
- Data-rich practices are evident in the College to support teachers in knowing every student and how they learn. Rigorous moderation practices are used across all subjects and year levels to support growth.
- Students are actively engaged in the vibrant learning culture at the College.

### Recommendation

- The College will scale the Middle Years Program to foster global connections and partnerships through staff and student exchange and collaboration on learning projects with schools nationally and globally.

## PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY

- Parents reported feeling welcome and valued, and families are recognised as integral members of the school community and key partners in their children's education.
- Through the passionate and committed contribution of the College Board and Parents & Friends (P&F), parents are involved in the strategic planning of the school, and the College is commended on reinvigorating the P&F as an active avenue for parent engagement.
- The College has supported the development of the student Narragunnawali Mob which is reported by students to feel like their own family within the school.
- The College is commended for its ongoing generous support of local schools and community groups.

### Recommendations

- In line with their 2022 School Improvement Plan, the College will develop a Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Merici will continue to promote parent agency and community engagement through the Board and P&F Association, including a promotional campaign of the work of parent groups.

## STEWARDSHIP AND RESOURCES

- Merici distributes resources in an equitable and targeted manner. Inclusion is a feature of the culture of Merici, with strategic, active support provided to students with diverse and accelerated needs.
- The College's approach to sustainability through several ongoing initiatives is commended.

### Recommendation

- The College will continue developing their Master Plan, in consultation and collaboration with CECG, focusing on stewardship for the future and providing certainty around enrolment capacity.

