

6th National Catholic School Improvement Colloquium 2023

Sunday 15 October - Tuesday 17 October

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Guidelines & Submissions

The 2023 National Catholic School Improvement Colloquium provides a forum for leaders working in Catholic Education to come together to consider opportunities and issues relevant to school improvement in Catholic Education of the future.

In 2023 as we emerge from the pandemic of the last few years, and with a focus on connection and communication, we are well positioned to delve into dialogue based around the colloquium theme **“Pathways of Hope”** - *May the God of hope fill you all with joy and peace so that you may abound in the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13).*

As system leaders we are asked to consider - ***How do we serve, engage and empower our schools to lead school improvement that prepares students for a hope-filled future?***

Together with its central theme 'Pathways of Hope', the five broad themes of the colloquium provide the opportunity to explore, listen, perceive, and—through robust dialogue—articulate:

- *Catholic Identity and Religious Education*
- *Staff and Student Engagement and Wellbeing*
- *School and Community Culture*
- *Leadership and Teacher Capability*
- *Enrolments, Recruitment and Retention*

This 2023 call to action in Fremantle Western Australia, represents an opportunity for you to play an active role in demonstrating opportunities for improvement; strengthening existing networks and collaborations; and inspiring and transforming during this crucial time in Catholic education.

Abstracts for the Concurrent Sessions are now invited for submission under the five main themes of the colloquium:

1. Catholic Identity and Religious Education

Called to new evangelisation, Catholic schools are communities of faith founded on the teachings and values of the Catholic Church. Nurturing the formation of the person, and concerned with teaching the integration of faith, culture and life, our schools foster young people of Christian conscience and virtue who are prepared to make meaningful contributions to their communities and beyond. In addition, religious education serves as the first learning area and contributes to each school's educational programme along with a commitment to the Catholic worldview that permeates the curriculum and school life.

2. Staff and Student Engagement and Wellbeing

The engagement of students and staff in the educational, social, and cultural aspects of school life is essential to positive outcomes for students. Diversity of background, experience, and context all impact the ability of schools and systems to meet the needs of students and staff. Positive wellbeing

contributes to a thriving learning environment where individuals and groups are engaged and actively contributing to the goals and mission of the school.

3. School and Community Culture

As a Catholic school, building a welcoming and inclusive culture is essential for creating an environment where students, staff and parents feel safe, supported, respected, and valued. We are committed to fostering relationships through conversation and engagement.

4. Leadership and Teacher Capability

Strong leadership and teacher capability are critical factors in driving school improvement and progress, with each contributing to the creation of a positive school-wide culture and the implementation of current evidence-based theory, content, and practice. When both are working in sync, positive change occurs and ultimately benefits the entire school community.

5. Enrolments, Recruitment and Retention

Catholic education makes a significant contribution to Australian society across metropolitan, rural regional and remote contexts. It provides parents with educational choice maintaining a healthy market share in relation to student enrolments. Similarly, it provides employment opportunities for a diverse and committed workforce. All systems have a range of unique and effective strategies associated with growing student enrolments and providing a complete and agile workforce to overcome their challenges.

We recognise that it may be difficult to determine the appropriate category for your abstract. Please feel welcome to submit an abstract without specifying a category and the Program Committee will be happy to allocate the theme depending on the content. Please note that allocation of a new category may also apply to abstracts related to new research trends.

Submitting an Abstract for the Concurrent Sessions

Please submit online your document in Microsoft Word only, using the format indicated in the abstract template which is available below. We require that you use this template and save your abstract before uploading.

Guidelines

- Abstracts must be a maximum of 250 words.
- Abstracts must be submitted in 11-point, Arial font, with 1.25 spacing.
- Abstract submissions must be submitted on the abstract template provided below.
- The presenting author's name must be underlined, and all author affiliations included.
- The abstract title must be typed in title case and bold font.

Once you have submitted your abstract online, you will receive an email containing your personal access key. This access key can be used to enter the 'Speaker Zone' where you can view or make changes to your submitted abstract.

Terms and Conditions

- All presenting authors must register and pay to attend at least one day of the Colloquium.
- Submission of abstracts implies the author's agreement to publish the abstract in all Colloquium publications including the website. Successful abstracts must be presented by the author/s or a nominated co-author.
- Acceptance of abstracts does not imply any payment from the Organising Committee. Presenting authors must arrange and pay their own accommodation, travel etc. to attend the Colloquium.
- Acceptance or otherwise is at the discretion of the Program Committee whose decision is final.

Presentation Format for Concurrent Sessions – as per Template

- Dialogue – 55-minute session incorporating presentation, dialogue, and Q & A.

All abstracts must be submitted via the following [Abstract Portal](#) by Friday 30 June 2023

6th National Catholic School Improvement Colloquium 2023: Abstract Template

Concurrent Sessions Speaker Guidelines and Time Allocations

Format for presentations for sessions:

- Each speaker is allocated a total of 55-minutes for the entire session regardless of the presentation type (paper, case study, workshop, or discussion circle).
- Participants will be given access to a summary brief of each presentation before the Colloquium to allow them to pre-select and register for sessions they wish to attend.
- This presentation brief should be no longer than 250 words.

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

PRESENTATION NAME:	
THEME:	
PRESENTER/S	
CONTACT NUMBER:	
DIOCESE/SCHOOL:	

Breakdown	What you should cover	Suggested Time
THIS IS ME/US	Who you are, what your background is, where you are from, what your cohort of students looks like, information about your diocese/system.	2 minutes
THIS IS WHAT WORKS FOR ME	What is your topic about? What have your results and outcomes been? How long have you been using this technique/strategy/ matrix/ program etc. What are some of the challenges you have had to overcome?	3 minutes
THIS IS THE EVIDENCE BASE	Simply and concisely—highlight the main evidence/research base (What does the research suggest? What does the evidence look like?) Remember—participants will have access to your evidence/research database during/after the Colloquium)	3 minutes
THIS IS HOW IT WORKS	Step-by-step modelling of the technique/strategy/matrix/program with active audience participation (think – how can I show how this works?) Could you model a short lesson with participants or show examples or case studies that may also be relevant?	20-25 minutes
WHAT DO YOU THINK	Participant discussion and question time. Lead the group with questions such as: How could you use this in your school or diocese/system? What adjustments would you need to make?	15-20 minutes
GET MOBILE	Movement to next session	5 minutes

Abstract Submission Date: