

14 May 2021

Dr Christian Rowan MP  
State Member for Moggill  
Shadow Minister for Education and Shadow Minister for the Arts  
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By email: [moggill@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:moggill@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Christian

Thank you for your letter (dated 30 April 2021), sharing the concerns of those advocating for the continued operation of Seton College.

While we remain willing to engage with Seton's parents and caregivers through official and established channels (see below), we do not believe further dialogue about Seton's continued operation would be beneficial at this time.

Over a number of years, we have investigated ways to ensure current and future students at Seton College could be provided a full educational offering in an inclusive environment. Based on expert research and advice that says inclusive learning environments are best for students with disability, Brisbane Catholic Education (BCE) made the difficult decision to close Seton at the end of 2024. This timing allows the majority of students who are learning under the current structure to complete their education at Seton and ensure that there is minimal disruption to their education and experience.

BCE's decision to transition Seton to closure is one that has been widely communicated and we have provided our reasons for this decision to staff, parents, students and the broader community of Seton College.

The following may also provide you with some additional context as to our approach to parent and community engagement:

- Following the announcement in July 2020, three parent forums were scheduled and held (complying with COVID-19 requirements), where senior leaders of Brisbane Catholic Education (BCE)—myself included—were in attendance to respond to questions from parents and caregivers.
- Like many schools and business, in 2020, COVID-19 restrictions impacted Seton's ability to host planned activities, resulting in reduced face-to-face engagement with the broader community. However, where possible, Seton continued to use online channels to share information and engage with parents and caregivers. Last week, we held our first in-person community event for some time (for Mothers' Day) and it we received fantastic feedback from all those who attended.

- Due to the resignation earlier this year of the Seton Collaborative Executive and the resulting inability to form a new Executive, the Seton leadership team has been working with Catholic School Parents Queensland to develop new and tested methods of parent engagement that does not include a P&F or school board, which are not a requirement of Archdiocesan schools. We expect to announce these new structures in the coming weeks.
- Every fortnight, a parent and caregiver newsletter is distributed via email to Seton parents and caregivers and uploaded onto the Seton website. Since 26 February, BCE has been including relevant information in those newsletters to keep parents and caregivers updated on matters relating to the transition to closure. Most recently, we included a link in the newsletter to a short survey for parents and caregivers to complete, asking them for their preferences regarding College communications. Our Seton Facebook page has also been reactivated in recent months.
- BCE continues to provide a dedicated case manager to support parents and caregivers reaching out for assistance in navigating the pathway to a new BCE college.
- BCE has also provided additional resourcing to the school to ensure our Seton staff can focus on teaching and supporting our students, and to ensure the Seton community receives the dedicated and specialist support it requires.

Our first priority is the students and staff at Seton and to minimise disruption to the continuity of education for current students. We are committed to working with Seton parents and caregivers in the education of their children and look forward to the collaborative outcomes of our new and additional parent and caregiver engagement methods being implemented soon. There will be an opportunity to update you on our progress later this year.

Thank you again for your interest.

Kind regards,



Pam Betts  
Executive Director  
Catholic Education  
Archdiocese of Brisbane