



# Jesuit Education Australia Strategic Plan 2023–2025

'Jesuit Education Australia has been established as a work of the Australian Province of the Society of Jesus, charged with "cura apostolica" – the care of the education apostolate with responsibility to provide strategic oversight and governance of the educational ministry of the Society of Jesus in Australia.

The principle of subsidiarity is key to Jesuit governance and will inform the practice of JEA decision-making.

Of paramount importance is to assure and enable a secure future for high quality Catholic education in the Jesuit tradition within Australia.'

*Strategic Plan 2020–2022*



Jesuit Education Australia provides clarity, connection, effective governance and supports the Jesuit and Companion Colleges' ongoing growth and sustainability.

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## Our story

Jesuit education has been a vibrant presence in Australia contributing to Catholic Education and wider society for more than 160 years.

The Jesuit and Companion Colleges continue to bring life to Ignatian Spirituality and nurture Jesuit education. The whole philosophy of Jesuit education is contained in the opening sentence of the Spiritual Exercises (First Principle and Foundation), that we are created to praise, reverence and serve God our Lord. Our aim is to enliven these concepts in our context of Jesuit education.

## Mission Statement

The Mission of JEA is to nurture Jesuit and Companion College education ministries as Catholic institutions within the tradition of St Ignatius, where the ethos and identity of each College reflects the spirituality of Ignatius's Spiritual Exercises and the Jesuit and Ignatian tradition and is in conformity with the doctrine, rites, and practices of the Catholic church.

*'Accompaniment is intimately linked to Ignatian spirituality and pedagogy. It always includes an element of personalised care ... The key thing is being there.'*<sup>1</sup>

## Statement of Intent

### In providing strategic direction, JEA will:

- Listen to those it accompanies and to the signs of the times
- Foster the growth of leadership informed by Ignatian Spirituality
- Encourage opportunities where contemporary ethical issues and tensions may be wrestled with
- Focus on justice and equity and explore ways to further the apostolic purpose of Jesuit education
- Support and create occasions to strengthen and grow relationships, and
- Provide constant assistance to enable fidelity to Mission.

### So that:

- We further the mission of Jesuit Education Australia
- Ensure adherence to Province policies, and
- Give effect to governing documentation.

**The five priorities identified in the Strategic Plan 2020–2022 are still considered by JEA to be most relevant.**

**These, together with the Universal Apostolic Preferences, the Province Priorities, and the Global Identifiers become the tributaries by which JEA will accompany the Jesuit, and Companion Colleges.**

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<sup>1</sup> Sosa, A, SJ., 'Walking with Ignatius', Loyola Press, Chicago, 2021, p175.

# The 5 Priorities



1

## Deepen Engagement with Ignatian Spirituality

*Our focus:  
Leadership Grounded  
in Ignatian  
Spirituality*

Promote and further develop the formation framework for Jesuit and Companion College communities

Strengthen collaboration with Jesuit and Companion Colleges to form and grow staff as Catholic and Ignatian people, leading to effective succession, with particular emphasis on development of the Senior Leaders Formation Program

Enhance and further embed Ignatian Spirituality through cross-ministry collaboration

Promote discernment as a critical concept of Jesuit and Ignatian Identity

Explore ways to animate and articulate the concept of 'Magis' and its application in governing Catholic Schools in the Jesuit tradition



2

## Advance the Safety and Dignity of All

*Our focus:  
Cura Personalis*

Deepen awareness and expression of 'cura personalis' by continuing to promote the safety and dignity of all people within all Jesuit and Companion Colleges

Encourage Jesuit and Companion Colleges to continue to be places of inclusive education, embracing the principles of equity, access and diversity



3

## Give Contemporary Expression to Jesuit Education

*Our focus:  
Ignatian Collaboration*

Promote an education for faith, depth, reconciliation, and global citizenship ensuring global Jesuit Education priorities are evident

Collaborate with Jesuit and Companion College communities and with external stakeholders to identify and strengthen the Catholic and Jesuit identity in the modern context

Collaborate with the Jesuit and Companion Colleges on contemporary education themes and issues



4

## Strengthen Partnerships in Mission

*Our focus:  
Ignatian Accompaniment*

Promote the voice of mission in all JEA-connected entities, Jesuit and Companion Colleges

Strengthen the accompaniment of the Jesuit and Companion Colleges Network and further build on the influence of this community in its wider context

Accompany and guide the Companion Colleges for mutual benefit, by identifying uniqueness, and growing relationships built on trust and confidence

Heighten our recognition of and engagement within the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific (JCAP) education apostolate



5

## Governing for Mission

*Our focus:  
Looking to the Magis*

Encourage renewal and robust succession planning in our Jesuit and Companion Colleges

Support the Jesuit Colleges by promoting accountability and good governance practices

Develop and implement appropriate, fit-for-purpose online systems to streamline governance and reporting requirements for Jesuit Colleges

# What creates our context?

The work of JEA and of the Jesuit and Companion Colleges is informed by a contemporary and ever evolving world. In keeping with Jesuit tradition, JEA and the Jesuit and Companion Colleges are in and of this contemporary world. The following were seen as important to refining the context for JEA.

- The changing face of the Church in Australia and the world, including the impact of secularism; and
- A future unknown - the impact of the pandemic, climate change, and world politics and events on schools and education.

## The importance of the following:

- Conscience, Compassion, Commitment, Competence, and being Christ Centred;
- Strong relationships;
- Ongoing Collaboration;
- Focus on succession planning; and
- Continuing to promote a Safeguarding culture.

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*“As he went along occupied by his devotions, he sat down for a little while with his face toward the river, which ran below. While he was seated there, the eyes of his understanding began to be opened. With so great an enlightenment that everything seemed new to him.”<sup>2</sup>*

2 Da Camara, L. *Testament and Testimony*,  
The Memoirs of Ignatius of Loyola, 1994, India.

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## The River

In discerning the Strategic Plan 2023-2025, JEA sees the metaphor of the river as a rich illumination of the foundations and purpose of the work of JEA.

- A river is constantly flowing, refreshing, and renewing;
- It has momentum, purpose and direction and exists in an ecosystem that relies on its forward movement and steady current;
- The work of JEA is similar, it remains vibrant, generative, supportive, and life-giving;
- Rivers also offer places of rest, relaxation, inspiration, contemplation, and insight to those who so desire as Ignatius experienced by the river Cardoner; and
- JEA aims to work collaboratively to ensure fidelity to Catholic education and to offer opportunities to reflect deeply on the distinctiveness of Jesuit education.



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