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# New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference

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## **Review of Catholic Tertiary Education in New Zealand**

In recent months, many of you have been involved in conversations concerning the direction of Catholic tertiary education in New Zealand. We had asked for an independent review to provide advice on the future for both Good Shepherd College (“GSC”) and The Catholic Institute of Aotearoa New Zealand (“TCI”) and we are grateful to all those who contributed to the consultation.

Following this independent review, we have decided to move toward creating a new entity for the delivery of Catholic tertiary education. Bringing together the services provided by GSC and TCI under one governance structure will strengthen our capacity for excellence in theological and religious studies, academic formation for seminarians through a high standard Bachelor’s degree, together with research and public engagement.

An Establishment Board will guide the process of moving toward a single entity and we are delighted to announce that Sir Brian Roche has accepted our invitation to Chair this Board. Sir Brian brings a wide breadth of organisational and leadership gifts and is known to many stakeholders in the consultation he assisted with as part of this review. In the meantime, the TCI Council and GSC Senate remain in place providing valuable oversight of each entity and ensuring quality teaching, advocacy, research, curriculum development, and academic formation of seminarians continues.

It is our expectation that a new entity would not be in place until at least 2019 given the range of considerations involved in a change of this significance. Paramount among these considerations will be staffing and students. Greater clarity on the timeline for these changes will become known as the Establishment Board begins work and you will be kept updated on these changes.

The role of Catholic Tertiary education is vital for the mission of the Church in the world and offers tremendous benefit to the wider New Zealand public. We entrust the work of the Establishment Board to the loving protection of Our Lady of the Assumption, our sure light leading us to Christ.

Sincerely, in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Patrick Dunn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bishop Patrick Dunn

**President - NZ Catholic Bishops**

**Te Huinga o ngā Pīhopa Katorika o Aotearoa**