

2023

Learning Community Report





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School Context Statement

Compass Catholic Community is a learning community for students aged between 17 and 24, who have not thrived in mainstream schooling. We exist for students who have disengaged or disconnected from education and employment, and are deliberately located in Davoren Park to cater to the young people of the North. We welcome all races, genders, faiths and cultures to our Learning Community.

At Compass, our students work towards achieving their SACE, as well as participating in VET courses. All elements of Compass are underpinned by our Wellbeing Framework, developed in partnership with the Life Buoyancy Institute (LBI). We journey together as a community towards lives that are meaningful for our students. We do this by expressing our agency, connectedness, and engagement, which we develop through building our self awareness, self regulation, strength focused thinking, setting intent, and healthy relationships.

Compass Catholic Community is a Catholic Diocesan School, established in 2022 as an initiative of the Archdiocese of Adelaide and Catholic Education SA.

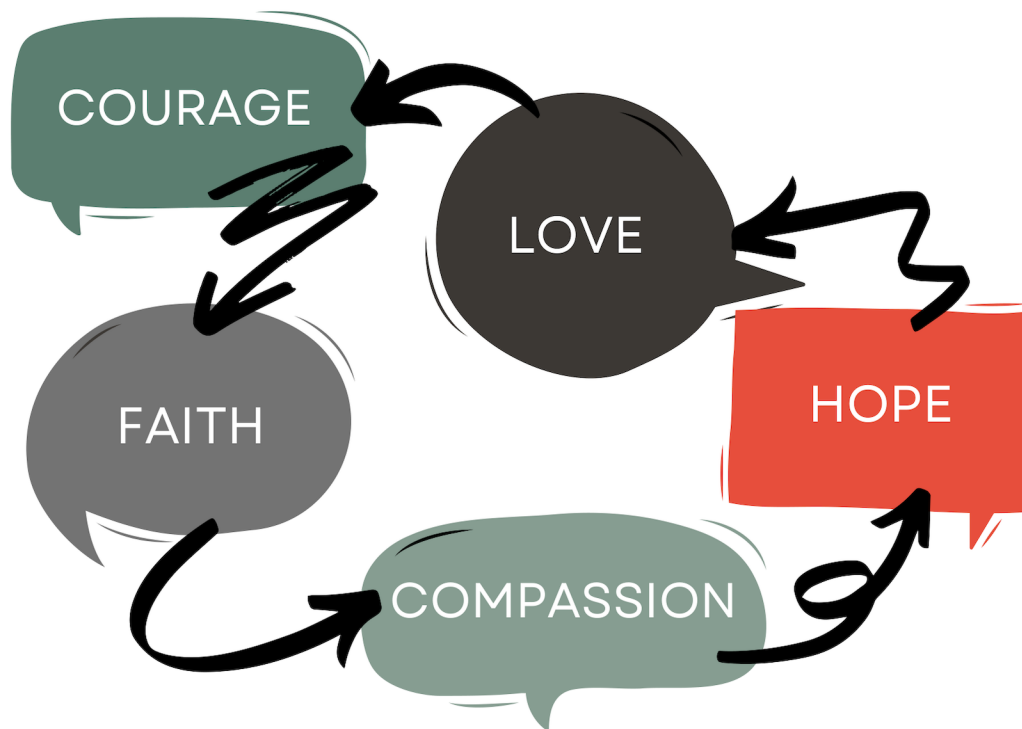




Our Vision & Intention

A Catholic community of courage, hope, faith, love and compassion. A space that is safe, both physically and psychologically. A place where we facilitate the doing of hard things. An environment of unrelenting love and respect, because we all matter absolutely. Helping and supporting young people on the path to living a life that is meaningful to them, through building agency, engagement and connectedness.

Our Values







Student Enrolments

Total Enrolments 2023	97
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Workforce Composition

Teaching Staff	9
FTE Teaching Staff	9
Non-teaching Staff	12
FTE Non-teaching Staff	10.65

There are no staff members who identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.



Teaching Qualifications & Standards

Masters	3
Bachelor Degree	15
Graduate Diploma	4
Other	4

Within Compass, we are fortunate to have a number of teachers who have two or more qualifications.

School Profile

Location	Davoren Park
School Type	Catholic Secondary
Enrolments end of 2023	97
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders Students	13%
Students with Disabilities	82%



Our Faith Journey

The unfolding story of the faith community at Compass continued throughout 2023. Below are a few snapshots of the expression of our Catholic Identity.

We took the opportunity to lean into Easter at Compass in 2023. On Holy Thursday, we had a brief devotional time, and then offered three opportunities for reflection as a whole group. Students could choose between decorating some eggs in a mindful craft activity, participating in an Easter meditation video and discussion, or walking the Way of The Cross (Caritas edition) along the outside pathway of Compass. These opportunities enjoyed positive engagement, with students choosing areas of comfort or stretch.

In response to a devastating fire at John Hartley Primary School at Smithfield Plains, the young people at Compass mobilised to support the affected school community. They created thoughtful gifts including photo frames with affirmations, cookie jars, and pot plants, aiming to uplift the spirits of those impacted. This initiative not only brought comfort to the recipients but also reinforced the compassion and resilience inherent in our students.

Some of our students attended the World Youth Day tree planting day with 2 staff members. The students came back chatting with all who would listen about how great the event was, to be with other Catholic schools. They resonated well with the Care for our Common Earth Catholic Social Teaching and told the other students upon their return that they “didn’t get smashed with bibles or anything”. It is important for our community to always be aware of the previous experience of our young people, and the new opportunity we have to show our Catholic Community in a new way.

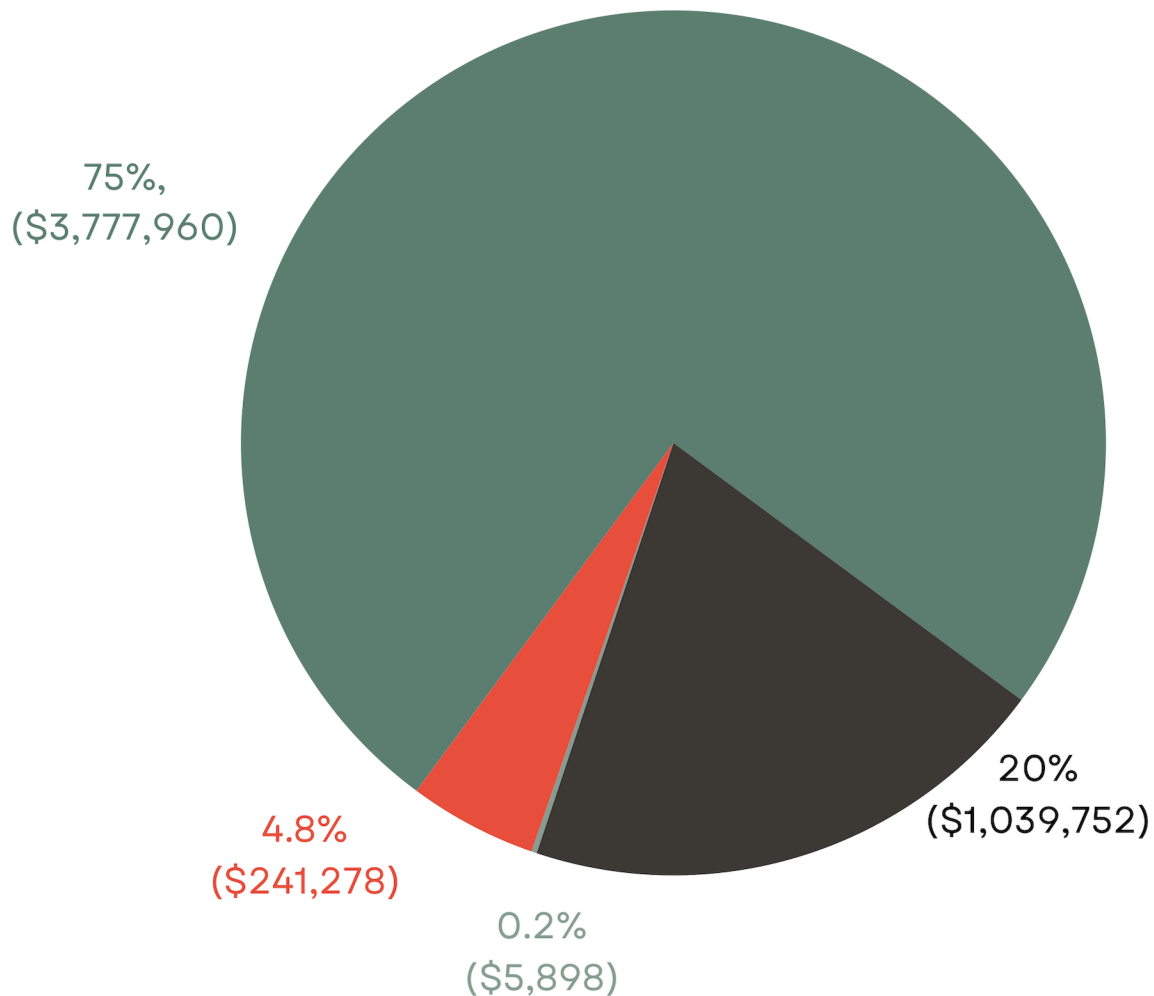
During Term 3, in our staff Midweek Meditations, we have been exploring pages as a staff from Fr Richard Rohr’s book ‘Just This’. It has been wonderful to share some ‘Prompts and Practices for Contemplation’ as a wider staff and invite us into that space of noticing the spiritual in the every day.

Through our ongoing partnership with the St Vincent de Paul Society of South Australia, staff and students demonstrated community care by assembling Christmas hampers for the 'Vinnies Christmas Appeal'. Our students collaborated in gathering and wrapping gifts suitable for children of various ages, ensuring that those less fortunate could experience the joy of Christmas.

In preparation for our End of Year Celebration in Dec 2023, students were given the opportunity to nominate their peers for awards across 4 categories. These reflected characteristics we value in our community – Bravery, Community, Faith and Perseverance. The Leadership Team then selected students from these nominations, and it was wonderful to see the winners, and their peers, celebrate these foci and the students. There was beautiful opportunity to share with each student why they were chosen, and what staff and students see in them, even if they don't yet see it in themselves.



Financial Data



Compass is a fee free educational offering for young people and the majority of our revenue is comprised of Commonwealth recurrent grants and State grant funding.



Professional Development

Our Partnership with the LBI Foundation

During this period, our collaboration with the LBI Foundation has continued strongly. We have enhanced our efforts in training and development, introducing new content while deepening our understanding of current practice. This ongoing work has enabled us to maintain our focus on growing a wellbeing and trauma-responsive community at Compass, driven by a shared commitment to growth.

Our overarching goal remains centred on nurturing students who can authentically and purposefully demonstrate:

- Agency – to act within the world, and not just be acted upon, with efficient, self-determination, and resilience.
- Connectedness – to future, identified family, culture, values, faith exploration, and things bigger than self.
- Engagement – identify community and explore both vocational and education pathways.

This collective goal is captured in the central aim of guiding each young person towards a life that is meaningful to them.

Our work in this area this year has included:

- Two staff members participated in the first IMPACT Train-the-Trainer course, paving the way for broader accessibility to IMPACT training and understanding among all staff.
- All new staff completed the IMPACT Respond Rather Than React: Introduction to International Practice training.
- Two staff members received training in IMPACT Intentional Practitioner (Coaching) Advanced Applications.

Additionally, both Learning Facilitators and Learning Supporters collaborated closely with LBI Director, Dr. Ivan Raymond, on an ongoing basis. Together, they worked to assist in the clinical development of Growth Action Plans (GAPS), aimed at establishing clear growth objectives for students.



In Term 3, we introduced the concept of "Building Blocks for a Meaningful Life" to our staff, capturing the essence of growth in feelings, awareness, skills, and mindsets. Later in Term 4, we began to introduce this concept directly to our students, showcasing the importance of individual growth in the Compass Community.

Staff Development with Steph Noon

Throughout 2023, our engagement with Steph Noon continued to enrich our team dynamics and individual growth. Steph led impactful workshops on strength-focused team building, stress management, enhancing team cohesion and promoting a healthy work-life balance. Her sessions on relationship building and reflective practice helped foster an inclusive workplace and encouraged continuous professional development. We are enthusiastic about continuing our collaboration with Steph to further align with our vision, intention and values.

Special Assistance Schools Connection Day

SAS Connection Day was held for the second consecutive year, a remarkable event that brings together the community of Special Assistance Schools from across South Australia. The annual event is dedicated uniting those working within alternative education settings, to exchange strategies and ideas that are being implemented within their respective learning communities.

This year's gathering focused on several key topics, such as working with Neurodiverse students, cultural influences in education, and approaches to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. The event featured a mix of staff-led workshops that inspired the staff members present, emphasising practical strategies and innovative approaches to education and wellbeing.

The success of SAS Connection Day has reinforced the importance of community and shared learning in fostering environments that thrive on diversity and inclusion.

Our Learning Community Feedback

What are students saying about Compass?



90%

of students feel they have a say in what they are learning.

90%

of students feel that students of different cultures and religions are welcomed and respected.

90%

of students feel proud to be part of their school community.

85%

of students feel they are accepted at Compass.

Our Learning Community Feedback

What are staff saying about Compass?



100%

of Learning Facilitators (Teachers) feel students make decisions about their learning.

95%

of staff feel there is a welcoming culture at Compass.

90%

of staff feel that Compass supports the dignity of each person through words and actions.

85%

of Learning Supporters feel their practices effectively support the learning needs of the students they work with.



Our Student Successes

SACE Completers

- 3 students completed their SACE at Compass in 2023.
- Based on expectation of eligible completers, this is 100% SACE completion for Compass.

SACE Resulting 2023

- **Stage 2 – all results holding as submitted to SACE Board**
 - 2AIF10 Activating Identities and Futures (Pilot) – 26 x students successfully completed
 - 2RPB10 Research Project B – 2 x students successfully completed
 - 2CAY20 Community Studies - Communication and the Community – 1 x student successfully completed
 - 2ILA20 Integrated Learning – 3 x students successfully completed
- **Stage 1 – all results holding as submitted to SACE Board**
 - 1EIF10 Exploring Identities and Future (Pilot) – 13 x students successfully completed, moderated and confirmed
 - 1ETE10 Essential English – 8 x students successfully completed, moderated and confirmed
 - 1ILN10 Integrated Learning – 11 x students successfully completed
 - 1ILN20 Integrated Learning – 26 x students successfully completed





Vocational Education & Training

50 students (48% of total Compass students) completed one or more VET unit of competency in 2023, whether it be short skill-based courses such as Barista Training, First Aid, Responsible Service of Alcohol or working towards full certification.

Partial VET Qualification Completion

- Certificate I – 8 students
- Certificate II – 4 students
- Certificate III – 18 students
- Certificate IV – 2 students

Completed VET Qualification

- Certificate I – 16 students
- Certificate II – 4 students
- Certificate III – 1 student
- Certificate IV – 2 students

Total number of VET competencies resulted in 2023 was 270

- Certificate I – 116 competencies
- Certificate II – 77 competencies
- Certificate III – 62 competencies
- Certificate IV – 15 competencies

VET that students participated in during 2023

- SIT10222 Certificate I in Hospitality
- SIT20416 Certificate II in Kitchen Operations
- SIT30616 Certificate III in Hospitality
- CHC30121 Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care
- CHC32015 Certificate III in Community Services
- CHC43315 Certificate IV in Mental Health
- CHC43115 Certificate IV in Disability
- 22569VIC Certificate II in Plumbing (Pre-Apprenticeship)
- CPC10120 Certificate I in Construction
- SIS31015 Certificate III Aquatics and Community Recreation

Structured Workplace Learning

- 5 x students undertook Structured Workplace Learning in 2023
- 2 x students undertook Work Experience, which enabled them to transition into higher level VET training.





SACE Subject Pilot Program - Change Network

Compass Catholic Community participated in three subject pilot programs throughout 2023.

Compass supported the SACE Board by volunteering to be a part of the SACE Change Network – where schools were asked to gather informed feedback and explore new subjects through innovation. Compass used the opportunity to experiment and test different solutions to various scenarios, ensuring the promise of shaping and delivering new education opportunities so that young people can thrive were honoured. Compass developed, prototyped and tested initiatives on behalf of the SACE Board to ensure that the current proposed syllabus allows flexibility for all, particularly on our Compass young people, so that they have an opportunity to achieve success.

Compass implemented and trialed the new Stage 1 Exploring Identities and Futures (EIF), previously Personal Learning Plan (PLP) and Stage 2 Activating Identities and Futures (AIF), previously Research Project (RP).

The intention behind each of these new subjects is to assist students to recognise their individual strengths and see that the purpose and value of learning is much more than knowledge and grades. This fits well with the intention of Compass where we are student centred, and our young people are at the core of everything we do. Our work focuses on making things personally meaningful for students, as they co-construct their work together with Learning Facilitators. When our young people are engaged, they are thriving.

Currently, Compass is a part of the Aboriginal Recognition of Cultural Knowledge. This recognises learning outside of the classroom, supporting, and enabling all Aboriginal students to thrive. It allows students to identify for themselves what could possibly be recognised towards SACE. It also enables our Aboriginal students to develop a sense of belonging and pride in their culture along with an awareness and an understanding that their culture is valued and important to the SACE Board, our Compass community and society as a whole.

Graduates

Graduate Name	Graduate Future Pathway
James Bubner	Exploring employment and growing skills through volunteer work in his local community.
Zoe Burton	Attending TAFE.
Kyle Coleman	Focusing on his responsibilities after Compass to his family, employment, and personal goals.
Seth Coleman	Employed in manufacturing industry.
Noah Gibbons	Butcher Apprenticeship.
Becca Jones	Developing own Art Small Business.
Jordan Longman	Exploring employment and leveraging skills gained through hospitality studies.
Lukas Mathews	Seeking employment, aiming to leverage his strengths in hands on work.
Aiden McDougall	Three-year Horticulture Traineeship within Local Government sector.
Michael Smith	Pursuing a future in Competitive Swimming and employment in the field of aquatics.



Playford Alive Local Heroes Awards

The Playford Alive Local Heroes Awards are sponsored by the Playford Alive Initiatives Fund – a partnership between Renewal SA, SA Housing Authority and City of Playford.

Launched in 2022, five awards were established as part of the program, which are linked to Compass' values, with nominations for four of the awards coming directly from our student cohort and one decided by Compass' Curriculum Lead. The Compass Leadership Team reviewed the many nominations and eventually decided the worthy winners.

The awards were presented by City of Playford Mayor, Mr Glenn Docherty.



ALYSON PERSEVERANCE AWARD

Alyson's enduring spirit and transformative power of determination earned her the Playford Alive Local Heroes Award for perseverance. In the face of adversity, Alyson's resilience stands out as she fearlessly confronts discomfort through self-reflection. Her commitment to restoring strained bonds through restorative conversations showcases extraordinary character. Alyson's unwavering determination and dedication to personal growth make her a beacon of inspiration for us all.



JUSTINE BRAVERY AWARD

Fearless actions within and beyond Compass' walls earned Justine the Bravery Award. Stepping out of her comfort zone, Justine entered an Aboriginal Art competition for her local netball team, winning with a shirt design that now adorns proud staff members. Her bold leap into a VET course in Early Childhood Education reflects her commitment to a meaningful life. Despite accolades, Justine remains humble, embodying a spirit of quiet strength. Her bravery, creativity, and resilience make her a true inspiration.



PHOENIX

COMMUNITY AWARD

Phoenix, recipient of the Community Award, has consistently demonstrated mindfulness and unwavering support for others, even amid his own challenges. As a leader, he encourages community engagement and inclusivity, fostering a spirit of togetherness. Phoenix's kindness goes beyond words. He actively checks in on peers and staff, ensuring their wellbeing. His infectious positivity, seen in his commitment to LDOS activities and completing Learning Directions with a smile, embodies the core values of compassion, love, and unwavering belief in others.



ERIN

FAITH AWARD

Erin, honoured with the Faith Award, exemplifies the core values of Compass through selfless dedication and unwavering commitment to loving and serving others. Actively engaging in community activities, from LDOS to the community garden, Erin's enthusiasm reflects her deep love for those around her. Beyond the school, Erin extends her caring nature through volunteering in the community. Her bravery in facing personal challenges, coupled with enduring perseverance, makes her not only a fantastic person but a truly inspiring young leader.



ZAC

ACADEMIC AWARD

Operating under the radar, Zac's commitment to his studies is reflected in his impressive earning of 70 SACE credits in 2023. His exceptional attendance rate attests to his unwavering focus. Noteworthy is Zac's willingness to step outside his comfort zone, exploring new horizons such as cooking, attending LDOS, and seeking professional supports for personal growth. In his unassuming manner, Zac has become an inspiration to others at Compass, demonstrating that true achievement often speaks loudest in quiet perseverance.



Early Years Hub Enrolments

Total Enrolments 2023

Total Enrolments	17
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Enrolments by Age

Age	No. of Enrolments
< 1 year	7
1 - 2 years	6
2 - 3 years	2
3 - 4 years	0
4 - 5 years	2



Early Years Hub

Childhood Education Statement

The Early Years Hub (EYH) at Compass Catholic Community has witnessed significant project work throughout the year, focusing on key aspects that contribute to the holistic development of young children. The projects undertaken have centred on fostering positive attachments, building connections, and facilitating smooth transitions into care. A substantial emphasis was placed on supporting parents through essential aspects such as feeding and sleep schedules.

Sensory play has been a cornerstone of the EYH curriculum, aimed at enhancing children's confidence and resilience. Activities such as shaving foam exploration, jelly play, and finger painting have provided children with unique sensory experiences, contributing to their overall development.

The 'I Can Eat a Rainbow' initiative has been successful in encouraging children to explore new foods through engaging their senses of smell, touch, and taste. This approach not only promotes healthy eating habits but also fosters a sense of curiosity and exploration.

The implementation of 'Zones of Regulations' has focused on the four main emotions; happy, sad, angry, and excited. This project aimed to help children understand and manage their feelings, contributing to their emotional intelligence and social skills.

Furthermore, the weekly colour recognition activities have played a crucial role in planning experiences that support children's cognitive development. This intentional focus on colour recognition enhances their ability to identify and differentiate colours, providing a foundation for more complex learning tasks.





Skills Developed

The commitment to building positive attachments in the EYH has yielded commendable results. Children have developed strong connections with educators Kelly and Tania through quality engagement, fostering confidence and self-belief. This positive attachment has, in turn, created a foundation for security, emotional stability, and trust, crucial for healthy social, emotional, and cognitive development.

The secure and nurturing environment in the EYH has empowered children to explore new experiences with confidence and resilience. Their ability to approach challenges with a positive mindset, even in the face of setbacks, showcases the impact of the nurturing environment on their overall development.

Significant progress has been observed in the communication skills of the children, both verbal and non-verbal. The development of problem-solving skills through age-appropriate challenges indicates the cognitive growth and adaptability fostered within the Early Years Hub.

Highlights

- **Graduations:** Three children graduated from the Early Years Hub, taking their learning and development into the next chapter of their educational journey.
- **Confidence Building:** Witnessing the children build confidence throughout the year has been a notable highlight. The nurturing environment provided in the EYH has contributed to the children's growing sense of self-assurance.
- **Positive Feedback from Families:** Families have provided positive feedback, expressing satisfaction with how their children have seamlessly settled into our community. This feedback highlights the success of the EYH in creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment.

Official Opening and Blessing Ceremony

On a serene March morning, the Compass Catholic Community lawns transformed into a gathering place for nearly 200 distinguished guests, marking a significant milestone in our journey. The Official Opening and Blessing Ceremony not only celebrated the physical establishment of our vibrant community but also highlighted our enduring spirit and aspirations for the future.

Archbishop Patrick O'Regan presided over the Blessing Ceremony, which was further graced by guests like the Honourable Blair Boyer MP (Minister for Education, Training and Skills), Professor Denis Ralph (Chair of the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools), and other notable leaders.

The event commenced with a heartfelt Acknowledgement of Country by students Justine, Kyle, and Tizzy, setting a tone of respect and inclusivity.

Our little people from the Early Years Hub led a procession, bringing forward symbols representing our community's ethos and hopes, which were blessed in a moving ritual. Compass' inaugural Principal, Kelly Bunyon, welcomed all, underscoring the shared vision and collaborative spirit that defines Compass.





The ceremony concluded with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque, symbolising a commitment to future generations. Guests then explored the Learning Hub, Kitchen Hub, and Early Years Hub, engaging with interactive displays that showcased students' achievements and aspirations.

The event was a beautiful tapestry of community spirit, educational innovation, and collective ambition, promising a bright future for all involved.

Compass would like to extend a special thank you to the many people who contributed to not only the event, but to those who have played a part our amazing community coming to life!

Special thanks to:

- Archbishop Patrick O'Regan, and all esteemed guests for honouring us at the Official Opening and Blessing Ceremony
- Hannah Yates for blessing us with music on the day
- Dr Jill Gowdie for her assistance to coordinate the event
- dwp Hardy Milazzo for the gorgeous design of our spaces
- BADGE Constructions for the beautiful work on our buildings
- The Vision for the North Steering Committee, South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools and all at Catholic Education South Australia for their support of our community







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