



EREA Governance Statement

St Patrick's College is governed by Edmund Rice Education Australia Victorian Schools Limited (EREA VSL) and offers a Catholic education in the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice.

EREA VSL commenced as proprietor for six Victorian schools on 1 January 2024. Enrolling over 7000 students, EREA VSL is responsible for the governance of schools. EREA VSL is guided by the EREA *Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition*. The Charter articulates the vision, mission, and objectives for schools. Through the Touchstones, the Charter speaks to the values, aspirations, and beliefs that schools strive to offer including a liberating education, based on a gospel spirituality, within an inclusive community committed to justice and solidarity.

Consistent with the EREA Charter, EREA VSL supports and promotes the principles and practices of Australian democracy in its operations and in the operations of the schools including a commitment to elected government; the rule of law; equal rights for all before the law; freedom of religion; freedom of speech and association; and the values of openness and tolerance.

Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) was established by the Christian Brothers as a public juridic body to ensure the continuation of the Charism of Blessed Edmund Rice in the educational mission of the Catholic Church, especially through the schools governed and conducted in the Edmund Rice tradition. It was constituted, in accordance with the norms of canon law, as a public juridic person within the Catholic Church on 20 September 2012 on approval by the Holy See. It carries on its mission in the name of the Church ensuring that all schools and other apostolic activities are conducted in conformity with the beliefs, teachings, and laws of the Church.

EREA, for the purposes of recognition in civil law, established a body corporate known as the Trustees of Edmund Rice Education Australia (TEREA) incorporated pursuant to the provisions of the *Roman Catholic Church Communities Lands Act 1942* (NSW). TEREA is the sole member of VSL. Further information on Edmund Rice Education Australia can be found at www.erea.edu.au.

EREA VSL was registered on 2 June 2022 (Australian Business Number: 90 659 880 985) with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), is a not-for-profit public company limited by guarantee and is a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC). EREA VSL has been incorporated under, and is subject to, the *Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)*, as amended from time to time.

Statement of Democratic Principles

- ✿ We believe in an accountable, democratically elected government.
- ✿ We respect and observe the rule of law, and believe that no person is above the law.
- ✿ We believe in equal rights for all before the law, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, gender or other attributes.
- ✿ We believe not only in the freedom of religion, but also the need to practice tolerance and understanding of others' beliefs.
- ✿ We believe in the value of freedom of speech and freedom of association, but also acknowledge that we have the responsibility not to abuse this freedom.
- ✿ We believe in the values of openness and tolerance, and value and respect all members of the school community regardless of background.