Uplifting Governance through Regeneration 26 October 2021





Progress so far

EREA has undertaken a number of steps so far through the Regeneration Plan to improve governance:

- ✓ Creation of the project plan structure leading to the creation of the new national entity 'Edmund Rice Education Australia Ltd'
- ✓ A Steering Committee, chaired by Philomena Billington, Deputy President of EREA Council of Trustees, has been formed to coordinate the process, recommendations and preparation of documentation to guide Regeneration
- An external *Reference Group*, chaired by Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM (Deputy Chancellor and Member of Council, University of Divinity), will comprise of senior skilled representatives from the Catholic Education Authorities and EREA School Advisory Councils, to ensure that structural decisions and the formation of the Board of EREA Ltd are contemplated fairly and according to the highest governance standards
- ✓ Conducting a company structure review of heavily regulated industries led by experts, to inform the future structure of EREA Ltd
- Consultation with other Catholic Education and Church entities

complete the Regeneration Plan and to restore confidence in EREA.

- ✓ Adopting amendments to the Interim Constitution (in June 2021), clarifying the specific roles of the current EREA Board and Council
- Establishment of three new committees to the current EREA Board, including a Risk and Assurance Committee (March 2021), Child Safeguarding Committee (March 2021) and Governance Committee (May 2021)
- ✓ Creation of a new Executive Role, the Chief Risk Officer, who will be responsible for school compliance with Minimum Standards
- ✓ Creation of a Director of Registration and Incorporation contract position to assist Victorian Schools through Catholic Education Commission Victoria (CECV) reviews, embed safety and compliance standards and support schools in the incorporation process over the next 18 months
- Development and consultation with Principal and Business Manager working groups on a stepchanged Delegations of Authority, to be completed by the end of October
- Reviewed and defined the role of EREA School Advisory Councils leading to a new Charter, known as The Design, approved by the Board in August and launched in October.

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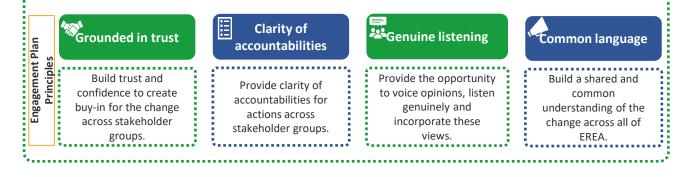
Timing

The Regeneration Program aims to confirm a recommended governance structure by December 2021.

We will transition towards this governance structure being implemented by early 2023.

Our Engagement approach

Our Regeneration is supported by a comprehensive and thoughtful Engagement Plan. Through information, guidance, communications, engagement opportunities and support, schools will be supported to contribute to the Regeneration and prepare for improved governance practices. The Engagement Plan is underpinned by four key principles:



Business Managers and Principals will be formally briefed in October and November. The Engagement Plan will include regular communications twice per term, briefings on Incorporation and governance uplifts, Working Groups, two-way communication mechanisms and ongoing support and information for schools.

For further information and support at this stage, the Regeneration Plan team can be contacted at <u>regenerationsupport@erea.edu.au</u>. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with school communities in the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice, to offer quality education opportunities to young people and families across Australia.

Craig Wattam

Executive Director EREA

Kilomena Di

Philomena Billington

Deputy President EREA Council of Trustees Chair of the EREA Ltd Steering Committee