



CNA
Catholic Network
Australia

An introduction to Catholic Network Australia (CNA)

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Catholic Education Landscape

The Catholic Church in Australia is comprised of [7 Archdioceses and 21 Dioceses](#).

All Catholic schools are governed by Catholic Education bodies aligned to these Archdioceses and Dioceses or through [Ministerial Public Juridic Person \(MPJP\)](#), entities entity established by canon (Church) law to perform a specific function (e.g. Religious Orders).

The [National Catholic Education Commission \(NCEC\)](#) is the peak body for Catholic education in Australia and is responsible for the national coordination and representation of Catholic schools and education authorities.

Priorities of Catholic Education

- Faith Formation
- Lifting Education Standards
- Serving all Students

Catholic Education in AU

1,759 Catholic Schools
794,000 Students
104,500 Staff

17% of students are enrolled [Religious Institutes and Ministerial Public Juridic Person School Authorities \(RI&MPJP\)](#)

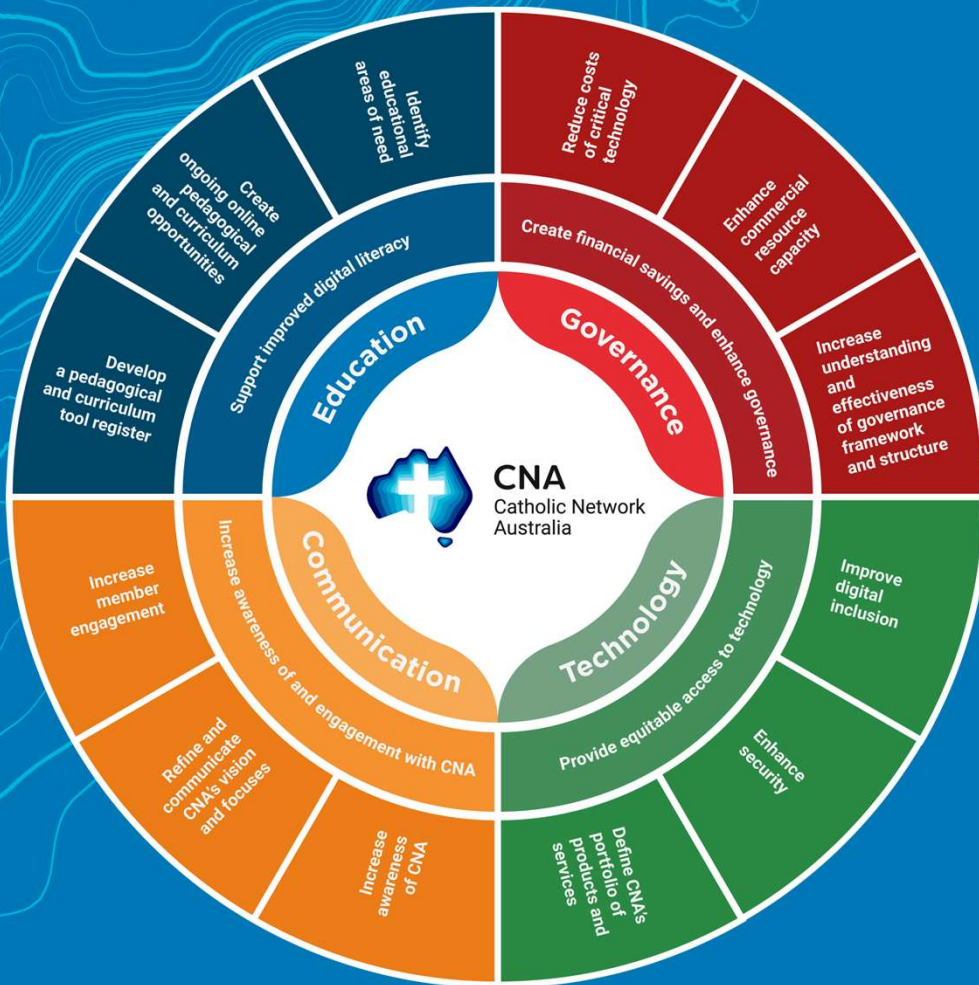
In 2023, the minimum recurrent cost of school education for every Australian student is:

- \$13,060 for a primary student,
- \$16,413 for a secondary student

The Australian Government provides more than half of per student funding for Catholic schools, while private income is the principal source of independent schools' funding.

No student will be denied enrolment due to an inability to pay school fees.

[Learn more about Catholic Education in Australia](#)



What is Catholic Network Australia (CNA)?

Catholic Network Australia Limited (CNA) is a not-for-profit entity, established in 2009 by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC). It was set up to advance and promote the religious, educational and general charitable purposes of the Church and its entities. It has since evolved to focus exclusively on education, and to share resources and expertise across its Participants.

What is CNA's focus?

CNA's strategic focuses are presented as a circle, acknowledging their interdependence and their shared priority. Education, Communication, Technology and Governance are the 2022 to 2025 strategic focuses.

How does CNA operate?

CNA is primarily resourced by voluntarily contributed hours from its Participants. A Working Group that reports via the Executive to the Board has delegated responsibility for delivering CNA's strategic objectives.



Education

- CNA's is committed to improving outcomes for students and staff at all participating schools.
- Digital literacy is an area of focus for CNA, guided directly by Teaching and Learning experts from within CNA participants, who collaborate through the Digital Learning Network and Contemporary Learning Working Group.

CNA supports learning and teaching across Australian Catholic educators through:

- Creation and publication of digital content
- Curation of quality digital resources
- Connecting Catholic communities of learning
- Providing counsel on the procurement of third-party resources

Supporting pedagogical change and professional learning through the use of digital technologies





Governance

Governance is a foundational principle of CNA, focused on the appropriate governance of decisions and management of processes.

CNA is a company limited by guarantee and is a subsidiary of the Australian Episcopal Conference of the Roman Catholic Church that acts as an agent for the Australian Catholic Bishop Conference. CNA is a Not-for-Profit organisation, governed by its Constitution, and guided by its Board and Executive Committees.

CNA participants provide a view of their operational and strategic priorities through annual surveys, which guide CNA's focus areas.

The underlying principle of CNA contracts is equity for all, meaning that all participants - irrespective of location, size or other differentiator – benefit in the same way from CNA negotiated agreements.

CNA contracts are opt in, meaning there is no obligation on any participant to participate in a CNA negotiated agreement.





Communication

CNA is a consortium of Australian Catholic Education organisations committed to sharing resources and expertise, to improve outcomes for students and staff at all participating schools.

CNA employs a range of communication channels to target specific Catholic Education audiences. As a national organisation, effective communication is essential to maintain relevance and engagement for all participants.





Technology

CNA is committed to providing equitable access to technology for all students and staff through improved digital inclusion, enhanced security and governance and an optimised portfolio of products and services which support the prioritised needs of its participants.

CNA helps participants empower educators, school leadership, staff, parents and students to support 21st Century learning, preparing students for the demands of the changing world.

CNA works with an expansive network of subject matter experts from participants and trusted leading technology providers to ensure participants have access to best-in-class education solutions.





Relationship with Participants

- 26 of Australia's 28 Archdiocese/diocese are CNA Participants.
- CNA serves over 1,500 Catholic schools across Australia and over 770,000 students, teachers and staff.
- The Board of CNA consists of 5 directors - 2 independent (including an independent chair), 3 Diocesan Directors
- CNA Working Groups meet several times a year, while national events provide opportunities for a broader group of senior and emerging leaders from Participants to connect on the latest topics impacting Catholic Education



Frequently Asked Questions



What adoption/utilisation of services can CNA guarantee?

None. CNA reduces barriers for Participants seeking to gain access to technologies and learning solutions. Each Participant will always make an assessment on what they need or want based on local priorities.

How can I most effectively communicate with prospective Catholic Education customers through CNA?

If a Participant recognises a need for your goods or services, they can engage with the relevant CNA Working Group to understand if other Participants have a similar need and if it is an appropriate consideration for CNA to pursue.

What is the benefit for me to engage with CNA instead of directly engaging with each Catholic Education organisation?

CNA's vetting process and procurement support offer Participants a reliable avenue for acquiring solutions that may otherwise elude their awareness, procurement capabilities, or technical evaluation expertise. CNA serves as a conduit, streamlining these interactions for the advantage of both external vendors and Catholic Education entities.

Why would a vendor want to engage with CNA

CNA works to simplify and streamline commercial conversations for vendors and Participants by creating an MSA upon which individual Participants might choose to engage

How does that help Participants?

By having an MSA, the ongoing management of any contract based on the MSA is simplified. Participants can chat to any of their peers who have also elected to engage via the MSA should they have a query about any terms or conditions, Service Level performance or more.

How does that help vendors?

By having an MSA, any vendor can negotiate once, which will save them time, effort and resources in the contract development phase.

Does CNA commit to volume or other specifics

CNA will never commit to any volume or value on behalf of its Participants

Who commits contractually?

CNA agrees terms and conditions on behalf of its Participants. Individual Participants then may choose to procure goods or services directly with the vendor via a Service Contract where the contracting parties are the Participant and the vendor.





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