

18 March 2026

DIOCESE  
OF  
BALLARAT  
CATHOLIC  
EDUCATION  
LIMITED



CATHOLIC EDUCATION BALLARAT

Ray McHale  
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Dear Ray,

Thank you for your patience as we reviewed your *Mission Australia Youth Survey 2026* research application.

I am pleased to advise that on the basis of the information you have provided and the agreed protocols of the four Victorian Catholic Dioceses, I grant permission for you to approach the Principals of our schools about your project. You will understand that many requests are made to our schools and I am conscious of the time commitment required by participants. With this in mind, I stress that the decision as to whether or not to participate rests with the individual Principals.

The following general conditions apply to all persons/institutions conducting research in schools in the Diocese of Ballarat:

- 1) The decision as to whether or not your research can proceed in a school rests with the School Principal. For each school in which you wish to do the research, you must obtain approval directly from the school Principal.
- 2) You are requested to provide the Principal with an outline of your research proposal and the likely time that participation in the research project will demand. A copy of the notification of approval from the appropriate Ethics Committee should also be provided to the participating school.
- 3) A Criminal Record check, or Working with Children Check (WWCC), is necessary for all researchers visiting schools and should be shown to the Principal before starting research in each school.
- 4) No student is to participate in your research study unless s/he is willing to do so and permission is given by a parent/guardian. Sufficient information must be provided to enable a parent/guardian to make an informed decision (opt-in approach). Permission to participate would generally be indicated by means of a consent form, signed by a parent/guardian and returned to the school. You are requested to liaise with the School Principal to assist in the writing of a letter to parents/guardians regarding information about the research project.
- 5) You are requested to forward a list of schools/participants to this office.
- 6) Any substantive modifications to the research proposal or additional research involving the use of the data collected will require a further research approval submission to my office.
- 7) Data relating to individual students or schools is to remain confidential.
- 8) DOBCEL would appreciate an internal summary report of opportunities for improvement arising from the research.

I take this opportunity to wish you success with your research project.

Yours sincerely

**Tom Sexton**  
Executive Director