The latest curriculum developments and best practice in whole school approaches were under the spotlight at a two day conference for 100 curriculum leaders in Catholic schools across the Diocese of Rockhampton this week at the Kevin Castles Centre in Rockhampton.

Under the title “Empowering Learners: 200 Days to Make a Difference” delegates from 39 Catholic primary schools and colleges from Mackay to Bundaberg and west to Longreach explored recent curriculum changes and initiatives and reflected on their challenge as educators.

Keynote speaker and head of Curriculum at the Catholic Schools Office in the Diocese of Broken Bay, Carmel Kriz, lead the opening session on current research indicators on cohesive whole school approach to curriculum and improving valued student outcomes.

“Curriculum leaders need time and space for deep reflection on what we already know, evaluation of what we are doing, identification of the challenges, and goal setting,” Ms Kriz said.

Catholic Education Director, Diocese of Rockhampton, Leesa Jeffcoat addressed the conference on recent directions in state and national educational discussions and possible implications for schools including the rapid move towards NAPLAN Online and implementing the new Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) senior assessment process to replace the existing Overall Position (OP) system.

“I believe that Catholic Education is very well placed to address these significant national and state educational agendas. We remain proactive participants in discussions at all levels, as our schools and colleges embrace curriculum change and contribute to quality learning and teaching with passion and commitment,” Miss Jeffcoat said.

Miss Jeffcoat said it was essential that curriculum leaders in schools and colleges take time out to attend this important professional development opportunity and participate in conversations on topical educational issues, to nurture vital networks and to share experiences and wisdom that will benefit students in classrooms across the diocese.

The conference also offered a wide variety of practical workshops across key curriculum areas from early years to senior education with a particular focus on making learning visible, teaching for deep understandings and implementing high expectations.

Pictured above; Carmel Kriz presenting at the Conference