Oral language and a focus on innovation in the classroom in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) were the topics of keynote addresses at this year’s Early Years Conference hosted by Catholic Education, Diocese of Rockhampton, at the Kevin Castles Centre on the weekend of 28 and 29 May.

Presenters Dr Melinda Miller from the Queensland University of Technology and Anita L’Enfant from Datacom addressed around 100 conference attendees from Catholic schools throughout Central Queensland, as well as teachers from Independent schools and education students from Central Queensland University.

Director Catholic Education, Diocese of Rockhampton, Leesa Jeffcoat, said the conference provided valuable professional development for early years educators.

“The conference emphasised the vital role early years educators play in the education of their young students. The keynote addresses and workshop presentations provided conference delegates with a balance of theoretical knowledge and practical, hands on classroom ideas to take away and implement,” Miss Jeffcoat said.

“It was very pleasing to see such a high number of attendees registered for the conference – it’s a clear indication of the wonderful commitment and dedication of our early year’s teachers in Catholic Education in this diocese.”