The Catholic Education Curriculum Conference, 2015, was held in Rockhampton from Wednesday 20 to Friday 22 May. The conference asked the question “What really matters?” and had as its focus the areas of Catholic identity, Teacher practice and Learning environments. Exploration of these three themes lie at the heart of who we are and what we believe is important in education.

Catholic Education, Diocese of Rockhampton, convenes a Curriculum Conference every year to bring together staff as well as external presenters to explore developments in Curriculum and teaching practice. Under the banner of this year’s theme, What Really Matters attendees had the opportunity to both hear from speakers and participate in workshops exploring such themes as; Catholic Identity, Justice and Catholic Social Thought, Achievements and improvements in student learning, Latest development in Google Apps in the classroom, ICT and Digital technologies, Science inquiry in the classroom, Managing the digital classroom, Planning for English and Personalizing the Learning environment.

This year’s conference had in excess of 100 attendees, from Catholic schools and colleges from Bundaberg to Mackay and west to Longreach. Keynote speakers: Dr Peta Goldburg (Professor of Religious Education, Director of Catholic Engagement, Faculty of Education and ARTS, Australian Catholic University) explored the idea of justice and how Catholic Social Thought provides a lens through which to shape, develop and critique curriculum. Carmel Kriz (Team Leader – Curriculum, Teaching and Learning K-12, Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Broken Bay NSW) and Vivienne Outred (Education Officer – Curriculum, Teaching and Learning) focused on Collaborative analysis of student learning and coaching. Kathy Walker (Founding Director, Early Life Foundations) addresses developing relationships with children, rigorous learning environments and intentional and purposeful classroom activities.

Video conferencing was also offered to staff in schools and colleges this year for the first time. Staff who were unable to attend the conference in person also had the opportunity to participate in workshops and attend key note addresses via video links.

As always the conference provided an opportunity for networking, professional learning, sharing, affirmation and importantly clarification of our vision and that of the attendees as to What really matters in education. The opportunity to share with each other and the keynote presenters also provided a curriculum conference that was inspirational for all.