

28 May 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian / Carer,

The NSW Department of Education conducts regular audits of schools to help ensure that every student enrolled in a registered NSW non-government school receives the full benefit of any government funding provided.

The Lakes Christian College (the School) was audited in 2019 and has been working cooperatively since then with the Non-government Schools Advisory Committee to ensure the school is compliant with the NSW Education Act 1990 (the Act).

From 2012, financial and management support was provided to the School by Christian Community Ministries (CCM). In 2018, CCM became the Proprietor of the School and the legal entity which previously operated the School was subsequently deregistered.

During the transitional period of operations, the School site was transferred to the CCM Property Trust (Trust) for nil consideration. Two adjacent parcels of land to enable school expansion were also purchased through the Trust (New Lakes Properties). However, the costs associated with purchasing these properties, such as loan repayments and rates were being met by the School, even though the Trust was the legal owner of the land.

The Department has found that transferring the School site to the Trust for nil consideration and the School paying the costs associated with the New Lakes Properties constitutes non-compliance with the 'for profit' provisions of the Act.

The Board accepts that it is important to be compliant with the Act and has transferred the properties from the Trust back to the Proprietor for nil consideration. This has no impact on the costs being borne by the School.

Looking forward, and in the interests of ensuring best practice and ongoing compliance, we will commission a review by an independent governance and compliance professional to help ensure compliance with the Act.

Yours Sincerely,



Darren Dick  
Principal  
The Lakes Christian College