**Media Release**

**Re: Catholic Education WA to deliver education services on Christmas Island**

Catholic Education in WA has confirmed that they have signed a contract with the Federal Government to deliver education services to children in detention on Christmas Island.

The contract has resulted from an initial request by the Bishops of WA and has the full support of the Catholic Education Commission of WA.

The Australian Catholic Bishops recently made a statement requesting the Government’s Asylum Seeker Policy be more respectful of human dignity and basic human rights, noting the rights of those currently in detention are being seriously violated.

Executive Director of Catholic Education of WA Dr Tim McDonald expressed his strong support for the Bishops’ stance who see the involvement of Catholic Education in Christmas Island as a moral obligation, as education is a fundamental human right. He added that providing education to the children in detention on Christmas Island is in keeping with the Church’s support of people in detention and long tradition of assisting the poor and marginalised.

The contract will involve the provision of full time education services to children in detention for the next 12 months.

Catholic Education is planning to commence service provision from Term 3, 2014.

* **End of statement      -**

Issued by:

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