



Co-responsibility and Mission Sustainability Policy

Approved by the EREA Board: 26 May 2015

Rationale: EREA is a family of schools operating under a common Charter and is the contemporary expression of the *charism* of Edmund Rice within Catholic education in Australia. The Charter for Edmund Rice Education and the broader foundations upon which we stand clearly direct our mission to the ‘margins’, to the disadvantaged, to those who lack hope and to ensure that EREA adopts a preferential option for the poor.

Co-responsibility and Mission sustainability, a core value for Edmund Rice education, is central to who we are as a family. In a Christian family those who can support those who are struggling and all contribute according to their possibility and receive according to their need. Edmund Rice Education Australia is involved in numerous educational outreaches to support disadvantaged young people in our country and at times even our well-established schools need support. Co-responsibility and Mission sustainability defines who we are and how we embrace the Christian vision for justice and equity among people.

Co-responsibility within EREA refers to the process by which schools and entities share financial or non-financial resources to enhance the capacity of other members of the EREA family to grow and sustain their mission and mission-focussed need.

Principles: EREA operates within the context of the Charter which is underpinned by EREA core values. EREA is committed to good governance practice and stewardship. Establishing a co-responsibility and mission sustainability policy supports good governance and stewardship.

Policy Statement: When a school/entity seeks financial support from the Co-responsibility Fund the Board must consider evidence that school/entity:

- does not have adequate resources to be financially sustainable;
- is strongly aligned to mission but because of its student/parent mix is unable to be financially sustainable;

- is proposing an initiative that is in accord with mission and if applied will enhance the financial performance of that school/entity but it does not have adequate resources to respond to the initiative; and / or
- requires support for extra-ordinary mission focused initiatives which cannot be funded from its available resources

Applicable to: All EREA schools and member entities.

Key Responsibilities: The Executive Director has responsibility for the development and implementation of this policy and associated procedures and guidelines.

Effective From: This Policy is effective from 26 May 2015.

Review: This policy will be reviewed not less than 2 yearly or with legislative and or organisational policy or structure change.

Related Information: EREA Co-responsibility & Mission Sustainability Policy Guidelines (including Philosophical Reasoning for Co-responsibility)