



CATHOLIC EDUCATION  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**Media Statement**

**11 June 2020**

**New school to engage students with individualised, strength-based program**

Catholic Education Western Australia is introducing a new and exciting education initiative in Broome, with a school built on a relational, innovative and strength-based approaches to re-engage and support students in their life-long journey.

St Martin de Porres School will have a high ratio of staff to students enabling specialised and tailored learning programs to be developed, according to Panda Gardner, an educator with a wealth of experience in the Kimberley, who will serve as the school's Foundation Principal.

"Our school will help students who have disengaged from mainstream education, for a range of reasons, to thrive and to keep learning," Ms Gardner said.

"It's about feeling safe in the school, socially and emotionally. Our teaching and learning methodology will be different. St Martin de Porres School will focus on a growth mindset, using strength-based approaches to build on what students can do, rather than looking at the gaps,

"We are very much committed to seeing, hearing and valuing students without judgement, and will make our motto 'in love and harmony we grow' a daily reality."

Ms Gardner says that students from all backgrounds are welcome, and will be referred from local schools, the Education Department and other agencies, and may start with a trial to see if the school is suitable for them.

The new school's namesake, St Martin de Porres, was credited with establishing a children's hospital, and chosen as a model of compassion, perseverance and unconditional love.

Catholic Education Western Australia currently operates three Curriculum and Reengagement schools in the Archdiocese of Perth, and one in the Diocese of Geraldton.

**ENDS**