CIRCULAR No: 2015/013

TO:      DIOCESAN DIRECTORS
QCEC COMMISSION MEMBERS
PRINCIPALS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTE SCHOOLS QUEENSLAND
LEADERS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTE SCHOOLS QUEENSLAND
OTHER AUTHORISED ADDRESSES

FROM:    BOB KNIGHT, EXECUTIVE OFFICER – EDUCATION

TOPIC:   GET STARTED INITIATIVE

DATE:    19 JANUARY 2015

Dear Colleagues

The purpose of this Circular is to provide information on Round 5 of the Get Started Initiative.

Background
In October 2012 the Queensland Government announced funding of $18 million to support the Get in the Game initiative. Get Started is one of three programs within this initiative that aims to assist children and young people who can least afford to join a sport and recreation club.

‘Get Started’ Program
Eligible children and young people (from age 5 to 18) are provided with a voucher up to the value of $150 for the payment of membership and/or participation costs.

To be eligible for the program, the child’s parent/guardian must hold a Centrelink Health Care Card or a Pensioner’s Concession Card. To assist other children and young people identified as benefiting from the program whose parent/guardian does not have a Health Care or Pensioners Concession Card, a referral agent process has been incorporated into the program. Two referral agents are required to endorse an application for a voucher and they both must have known the child/young person for a minimum 12 month period. Principals, teachers and guidance/career counsellors can act as referral agents.

As a referral agent, teachers, principals and guidance/career counsellors support children and young people who would benefit from participation in sport and recreation and require assistance with the payment of membership and/or participation fees. The referral agent is required to provide the parent/guardian/carer of the child with a copy of the Get Started Parent/Carer/Guardian Fact Sheet with the referral agent section completed or an email or letter, on letterhead, containing the referral agent statement and the referral agent’s contact details. The parent, carer or guardian will be required to upload this as part of the application process.

There is an opportunity to encourage participation from girls as organisations that currently meet the Get Started criteria, such as PCYCs and those affiliated with Queensland Gymnastics Association Inc., DanceSport
Ltd. Australia and DrillDance Queensland, are now able to accept vouchers for dance activities, if offered, as part of the Start Playing, Stay Playing strategy.

Round 5 of Get Started opens at 10 am on Wednesday 28 February 2015. Vouchers are allocated on the first come, first served basis. Further information on the program and the referral agent process is available on the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing website.

Yours sincerely

Bob Knight
Executive Officer - Education