



**CATHOLIC EDUCATION**  
DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

**Organisation:**

Catholic Education Diocese of Wollongong

**Industry:**

Education

**Solution:**

- redundant network
- nbn Enterprise Ethernet

**Benefits:**

- uninterrupted student learning
- improved network availability
- seamless internet continuation during planned and unplanned primary network events
- ability to separate network traffic to improve application performance e.g. during NAPLAN tests
- flexibility and scalability

## VERTEL ENSURES UNINTERRUPTED STUDENT LEARNING FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

Established in 1952, the Catholic Education Diocese of Wollongong (CEDoW) incorporates 38 Catholic schools, spanning across the Illawarra, Macarthur, Southern Highlands, and Shoalhaven regions of New South Wales. The diocese incorporates 29 parish primary schools, eight secondary schools, one kindergarten to year 12 school. With offices based in Wollongong and Campbelltown, CEDoW educates over 19,000 students across the schools and employs 2,500 staff, including casual employees, throughout the Diocese.

### PROBLEM: SAFEGUARDING LEARNING ACROSS THE DIOCESE AGAINST NETWORK DOWNTIME

CEDoW is dedicated to continued growth in students' education and wanted to reduce the risk of students missing out on learning opportunities due to internet outages. With educational institutions increasingly incorporating technology into the classroom and facilitating remote learning, it is not uncommon for school networks to go down; however, CEDoW wanted to ensure that it had a back-up plan ready.

Reuben Bardak, Project Manager, CEDoW, said, "The CEDoW worked to proactively address this challenge and came up with a high availability network architecture (HANA) strategy to introduce network redundancy across the schools."



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**“AS A RESULT OF THE FORESIGHT AND INNOVATIVE THINKING OF THE CEDOW IT TEAM, AND WITH VERTEL’S EXPERTISE ESTABLISHING A CONTINGENCY NETWORK, THE CEDOW HAS IMPROVED ITS NETWORK AVAILABILITY AND ENSURED UNINTERRUPTED LEARNING FOR STUDENTS.”**

David Emery, acting chief information officer (CIO), CEDoW

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#### **SOLUTION: A REDUNDANT NBN ENTERPRISE ETHERNET NETWORK IMPLEMENTED BY VERTEL**

Having previously worked with Vertel, the CEDoW knew it could deliver high-quality services. The CEDoW approached Vertel with a detailed plan that mapped out the specifications needed to align with its HANA strategy. Vertel then deployed the redundant network using nbn Enterprise Ethernet, chosen for its competitive pricing, which is built on an end-to-end fibre network.

nbn Enterprise Ethernet can run in parallel to the existing primary network. It can also be tailored to guarantee bandwidth to different areas of schools and provides the CEDoW with more flexibility and scalability for the future.

#### **BENEFITS: LEARNING CONTINUES SEAMLESSLY DESPITE PRIMARY NETWORK OUTAGES WITH THE CONTINGENCY NETWORK**

The priority for the CEDoW was to establish a contingency network that would ensure learning across the Diocese would not be interrupted if the primary network was to go down. Since the installation of the redundant network, the CEDoW has already seen the benefits having experienced a few outages to the primary network, including during the NAPLAN exam. However, there was no direct or noticeable impact to students as the redundant network facilitated seamless continuation of the exam.

David Emery, acting chief information officer (CIO), CEDoW, said, “Working with Vertel was easy because it facilitated the project, managed nbn and other contractors, and made sure the installation was progressing with weekly meetings to coordinate and address any issues.

“As a result of the foresight and innovative thinking of the CEDoW IT team, and with Vertel’s expertise establishing a contingency network, the CEDoW has improved its network availability and ensured uninterrupted learning for students. Having a back-up network in place fulfills the commitment of the CEDoW to help every student in the Diocese community find their purpose through continual growth and improvement in learning.”

#### **ABOUT VERTEL**

Vertel is a wholly-owned, Australian national telecommunications carrier with over 40 years’ experience delivering critical network infrastructure and services to enterprise, government and service provider organisations. With a broad range of fixed and mobile network and cloud services, underpinned by excellence in delivery and on-going operations, we specialise in serving customers with high availability, performance, management and security requirements for business, mission and life-critical operations. We design, build and deliver carrier-grade connectivity, management and application services for organisations throughout Australia.



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