



**CUSTOMER**  
Catholic Education  
Office Melbourne



**INDUSTRY**  
Education



**LOCATION**  
Australia



**GREENTREE  
PRODUCT SUITE**

- Financial Management
- Distribution
- SCM
- Payroll
- Workflow
- eRequisitions

## The next level for the Catholic Education Office Melbourne



Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Melbourne represents the fourth largest education system in Australia, operating in the third largest Catholic diocese in the world. The Catholic Education Office Melbourne works in partnership with Catholic schools to provide a wide range of advice and services for schools, teachers and members of the Catholic education community.

After 21 years of operating on the same financial system, the Catholic Education Office Melbourne (CEOM) made the decision to overhaul its AS400 accounting and business system. Turning over AU\$1.2 billion per annum, the Melbourne-based organisation began with the roll out of the Greentree Financial Management suite. The CEOM processes about 25000 transactions per annum with schools across Victoria and needed up-to-date systems in place to ensure these processes flowed efficiently.

“Before the roll out, we realised that many of our existing financial modules were inflexible and that we needed to change them,” says CEOM Chief Finance Officer, David Wilkes.

“The prime driver for the Greentree implementation is our schools as the system will enable us to keep them continually informed of the current status of transactions between them and the CEOM online. Having more electronically driven processes allows us to be much more responsive to schools.”

The organisation began investigating options for new software suites last year. This was followed by a rigorous tender process looking at a cross-section of small-to-medium enterprise programs to meet key needs:

- to boost and improve existing processes and efficiencies through automated, real-time financial practices
- to implement a flexible system capable of being customised for future growth and needs
- to access information seamlessly.

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- David Wilkes, Chief Finance Officer, CEOM

According to Mr. Wilkes, the CEOM needed a flexible system that could “talk” to the CEOM’s legacy database (CIS). It also needed to be able to download existing data directly from the database in order to streamline processes, as well as pave the way for future upgrades and improvements in financial and information technology processes.

During the selection process, the organisation spoke to existing Greentree clients to get feedback about Greentree’s products. “We thought Greentree was a very simple, but robust package and we were very pleased with the people presenting it. The other strength we saw was the one-source data entry which would reduce the number of data entries required for various applications across the CEOM. We looked at many different medium-sized packages, but were impressed with Greentree and its Business Partner, Star Accounting Solutions.”

The first phase of the project was rolled out on time and within budget, and Mr. Wilkes credits the work of his accounting team and Star Accounting Solutions for the success of the implementation. “The CEOM knew what was needed and we needed a package to take us to the next level,” he says. “Star Accounting has done that as they are qualified accountants and not purely information technology consultants, as such. They understand our requirements and can speak our language. And they were sensitive to the fact that we’re a not-for-profit organisation.”

Since the first phase roll out the CEOM has added additional Greentree modules to the core Financials including an automated purchasing system, eRequisitions and Payroll.

Mr. Wilkes adds there are already visible benefits to using the new system. “I can see exactly what is going on in real-time and the ease of access to information

is very valuable. We’re already able to create tailored management accounts and information that the CEOM will continue to refine and develop.”

#### **ABOUT CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE MELBOURNE**

As a service organisation, commissioned by the Church through the Archbishop, the CEOM’s mission is to serve those in Catholic educational communities and contribute to the achievement of excellence and equity in schooling.

The CEOM manages a variety of resources and is committed to equitable distribution of resources through good governance.

**For more information visit: [www.ceo.melb.catholic.edu.au](http://www.ceo.melb.catholic.edu.au)**

#### **ABOUT STAR ACCOUNTING SOLUTIONS**

Star Accounting Solutions is Greentree International’s most experienced and well-resourced Business Partner and value-added reseller and developer. Star Accounting Solutions has been in partnership with the company since it began and undertaken a number of development projects on behalf of Greentree that have become critical in developing Greentree’s total business solution. Star Accounting Solutions has received awards for Best Business Partner and Best Implementation of the Year.

**For more information visit: [www.staraccountingsolutions.com](http://www.staraccountingsolutions.com)**

#### **ABOUT GREENTREE**

Greentree International specialises in developing highly effective business management software solutions. The Greentree product has been developed by the authors of CBA, arguably the most successful business software package for small to medium sized businesses in Australia and New Zealand.

In choosing Greentree you are selecting a business system that will truly empower your organisation today and grow with you into the future.

**For more information visit: [www.greentree.com](http://www.greentree.com)**

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