



Associated Christian Schools
Christian education for the common good

Queensland Election 2020

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ASSOCIATED CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS RECOGNISES FIVE KEY PRIORITY AREAS FOR THE NEXT PERIOD OF GOVERNMENT IN QUEENSLAND

The attached ACS Queensland Election Statement 2020 should be read in conjunction with that of Independent Schools Queensland which can be found [here](#).

Key Priority Area 1

Public and political recognition and support for Independent faith-based school communities, this recognition and support to include continuing provisions for religious freedom to preserve the founding doctrines and tenets for each Christian school and the right to appoint Christian staff.

ACS bases this Priority on Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the “*right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.*”

More Australians believe a contemporary school education should equip students with the skills and aspiration to meaningfully contribute to society rather than simply turning out successful individuals, according to new research released in June 2020.



Australians are also more likely to hold the view that a Christian-based education has a positive influence on society and the development of its youngest citizens. This positive influence had been particularly evident during the pandemic when school communities worked together, reinforcing the value of education and the importance of parent/teacher partnerships.

These are among the key findings of a new report by leading Australian social research firm McCrindle Research, commissioned by Associated Christian Schools (ACS).

The report, *Exploring exemplary education and the positive impact of Christian education in society*, was commissioned by ACS to understand national attitudes towards ‘the common good’ on an individual and social level and to determine the value Australians place on education and its role in society.

ACS Executive Director Dr Lynne Doneley said the report ‘shone light on why the Christian schooling sector had been attracting enrolment growth’, based on the report ‘having examined the views of Australians on the role and impact Christian education plays in school education’.

The next Queensland Government should respect the unique contribution to education in Australia, by Independent faith-based education, and will continue to make, to the development of values systems in Australian society, as demonstrated by the research findings in the ACS/McCrindle report.

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