



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 3

Increased support for disadvantaged students; removing onerous or unnecessary bureaucratisation in identifying such students

1. Students with Disabilities

Associated Christian Schools seeks adequate funding to support the needs of students with identified learning difficulties, with priority given to early intervention locations, such as kindergartens and early childhood centres.

In accordance with Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and “Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.”

Given all educational bodies are obliged to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (and equivalent State Anti- Discrimination Acts) with regards to the education of disabled students, **appropriate levels of State Government funding need to be provided to individual schools** to assist them in properly assessing students, with additional ongoing funding provided to schools to ensure appropriate standards of education are delivered to disabled students during the course of their enrolment. Students with disabilities and their families are entitled to the same freedom of choice for education that supports and reflect their religious beliefs and values. In addition, students with disabilities are entitled to equal access to specialised services and resources, irrespective of the school sector, with funding portability.

2. Indigenous Students

Associated Christian Schools respects and values Indigenous people as original custodians and acknowledges their contribution to Australia’s past, present and future heritage. Indigenous students need to feel safe and secure in their school community and know that they are respected and loved as God’s children.

Associated Christian Schools seeks adequate funding of member schools to support the needs of Indigenous students within their school communities, to achieve identified educational targets in State Government Agreements.

We also seek the support of the next Queensland Government to support member schools with enrolled indigenous students so that opportunities can be created for these students through quality education, founded on Christian values and cultural heritage in partnership with staff, parents and the community. **Associated Christian Schools** also seeks the support of the next Queensland Government as their members seek to work in partnership with local Indigenous communities and elders.

Education for the common good

Exploring exemplary education and the positive impacts of Christian education in society



Australians are 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). 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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