



Associated Christian Schools
Christian education for the common good

Queensland Election 2020

ACS Media Release Number 4 of 5

October 2020

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 4

Capital funding assistance for schools; equitable funding for professional development across sectors

Over the next fifty years, Queensland population is projected to increase by an average rate of 1.6%. The projected impact of this growth on Queensland schools is that enrolments in all Queensland schools are projected to increase by 303,000 students between 2011 - 2031. (Queensland Schools Planning Commission - School infrastructure demand maps, 2013 edition).

Member schools of Associated Christian Schools have been established by local churches or parent communities. In establishing these schools, their governing bodies have had to overcome local and government restrictions to establish their schools, as well as injecting significant financial capital, sometimes from members' own personal expense.

Associated Christian Schools therefore requests the Queensland Government to consult with local councils to review and improve regulatory processes and procedures, land use, building certification requirements and organisational health safety requirements, to support schools undertaking of building programs, and continue progress in red tape reduction. Furthermore, we seek the Queensland Governments' support of local communities who want to establish new schools, by offering incentives and securities regarding relevant finance with loans and grant assistance. We seek the support of the next Queensland Government in ensuring equitable funding and access is provided across all sectors, for professional development, especially in rural and remote areas of the state.



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.

Contact Dr Lynne Doneley ED/Principal Research Officer **M:** 0457 736 882 **E:** ldoneley@christianschools.org.au