



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 5

Ongoing discussion around the core business of education

The question of **the primary purposes of education** has become much more important in recent years. One of the most important questions to be asked in this discussion is ***should it be more than merely utilitarian, serving employment and economic interests?*** The research outcomes in the ACS/McCrindle report clearly indicate the Australian community think so.

Discussion in the media as well as policy and public statements from a wide range of government sources have moved increasingly to the position where it seems that it has become a given that the main reason to go to school is to be able to find a good job upon graduation. **Associated Christian Schools** acknowledges this is an important outcome – nothing in this comment should be allowed to suggest otherwise – but our argument is that it ought not be the only, or even the most important outcome. Mere utilitarianism will ultimately see the demise of the study of literature, of history and of all kinds of learning for its own sake. Even the learning of languages other than English is currently being promoted on economic grounds. Mutual human understanding and the development of community are surely at least as important as manufacturing and trade. The development of character traits and human virtues such as compassion, courage, self-control, integrity and justice are often not only sidelined by a focus on utilitarian employment and economic thinking, but often actively discouraged. If anything was to be learned from the global financial crisis, the need to place human interests before profits, to place general welfare above personal gain became painfully apparent.

Clearly, the potential depth and breadth of this discussion has only been slightly hinted at in these few comments. It is our view, based on credible research, that the community would welcome a debate of this nature, and would welcome politicians who were prepared to engage in it.

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.

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