



# ACS Strategic Plan 2016 - 2019

## INTRODUCTION

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A review of the 2013-2016 Strategic Plan noted that most of the Action Items had been fully or partially completed.

It was agreed that two Pillars – ‘2. Christian Thinking for a Better World’ and ‘4. Christian Influence’ should be consolidated into the one Pillar: ‘An Influential Voice in Education’.

The Goals of ACS’s three Pillars (2016-2019) are as follows:

## PILLAR 1 - A FRIENDSHIP OF CHRISTIAN BELIEVERS ENGAGED IN EDUCATION

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### 1.1. IMPROVE MEMBERS’ EXPERIENCE

Create more opportunities for member school staff to be involved in ACS events.

### 1.2. COLLEGIAL PD

Broaden the opportunities for member school staff to be involved in collegial Professional Development.

### 1.3. FOSTER COLLEGIALLY

Foster friendships between member school staff in more informal settings at conferences and other PD opportunities.

### 1.4. SUGGESTED ACTION ITEMS:

- a) Review the format of Teachers’ Conference to maximize participation; intentionally create opportunities at conferences for teachers of similar teaching areas to meet.
- b) Investigate new ways to encourage networking between like groups of member schools; e.g. School Counsellors, Pastoral Care Coordinators, Heads of Department, etc.
- c) Establish the following items as bi-annual agenda items for Directors’ meetings:
  - how are we investigating and actioning opportunities for members to be involved?
  - how are we investigating and actioning opportunities for Collegial PD?
- d) Liaise with and seek feedback from members concerning the conference experience and refresh the conference accordingly; trial systems that provide immediate feedback after each session.
- e) Maximise Pupil Free day PD events to allow for more school staff to attend PD without the need for TRS.
- f) ACS to work with school leaders to understand, support and lead professional development focus areas.

## PILLAR 2 – AN INFLUENTIAL VOICE IN EDUCATION

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### 2.1 CHRISTIAN THINKING

Facilitate 'Christian thinking' for a better world.

### 2.2 TECHNOLOGY

Broaden the reach of ACS in member Schools and develop opportunities for greater engagement through the use of technology.

### 2.3 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Promote 'Teaching Christianly' through relevant PD material from other organisations.

### 2.4 RESEARCH

Promote research for the advancement of Christian schooling.

### 2.5 SUGGESTED ACTION ITEMS:

- a) Continue to influence and move 'Christian Thinking' with Christian educational bodies internationally, e.g. through conferences, visits, presentations, publications, etc.
- b) Have 'Christian Minds' discuss the future at ACS Conferences.
- c) Seek to establish think-tanks, chaired by a Director, led by the EO, and containing expert co-optees, which seek to speak into key issues for Christian schools. The issues might focus on:
  - 'how to plant new schools';
  - 'how to educate for leadership';
  - 'how to nurture faithful living';
  - Acts 1:8 education: 'how to establish a global vision in our schools';
  - 'dealing with the challenge of increasing Pastoral Need in an increasingly alienating world'.
- d) Action the establishment of an ACSnet with separate areas for Principals, Business Managers, Heads of School and Chaplains/Heads of Christian Ed.
- e) Facilitate and encourage the creation and use of articles, videos, portals, forums, action-research models, etc. relevant to Teaching Christianly and teaching in a Christian school.

## PILLAR 3 – GROWTH OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITIES

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### 3.1 ROUND TABLE INTERACTIONS

Foster collegiality and support for member schools.

### 3.2 MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Promote ACS activities to members.

### 3.3 AUSTRALIA & BEYOND

Broaden thinking in member schools with respect to Christian education, Australia and beyond.

### 3.4 SUGGESTED ACTION ITEMS:

- a) Establish regional Round Table discussions for Principals, approximately once per Term, hosting on a rotational basis.
- b) Facilitate and promote collegial forums and activities on a local level for sub-sets of neighbouring Christian schools (members and non-members) typically with the intention of sharing and developing best practice through short and relevant PD sessions.
- c) Develop a cadre of round table facilitators (selected from ACS member schools) that could visit clusters of ACS schools and facilitate these events in regional areas.
- d) Foster the development of broader thinking in member schools by purposefully developing study tours and relationships with known leaders in Christian education and schooling (including higher education).
- e) ACS to wisely use surplus funds to enhance Christian educational thinking, e.g. sponsorship of relevant research organisations such as CARDUS.
- f) Investigate opportunities to improve ACS's financial position through the use of philanthropy (DGR status, crowd funding, etc)