



Anglican  
Church  
Diocese of Perth



31 October 2018

Dear ASC Principals, teaching and support staff,

You may have seen media coverage today relating to the Federal Government's consideration of the Ruddock review on religious freedom, and particularly the concerns raised by some schools for the protection of exemptions in the Sex Discrimination Act.

I write to provide some local context to this debate and to assure you that we do not anticipate any changes to the approach Anglican Schools Commission (ASC) schools take in relation to either staff or students.

The Anglican Church of Australia is a broad one. We believe that human beings are created in the image of God, loved by God, infinitely valued and worthy of dignity. Within our Church there is a wide spectrum of understanding of human sexuality and gender. This diversity of opinion may also exist in your school community.

Our school communities should be places which reflect the imprint of God's grace for the students and staff within them. Our school communities should be places in which all members of the community may grow into the full measure of God's love. Faith, excellence, justice, respect, integrity and diversity are the ASC core values which are part of every ASC school.

I acknowledge and applaud the approach of the ASC in employing teachers and staff who support the Anglican ethos and values of the school. Anglican schools do have a special place in enlivening acceptance and the ethics of care, compassion and respect for others. Sexual orientation is not a consideration in the employment of teachers or support staff, nor the enrolling of students in ASC schools. ASC schools are inclusive communities and I believe that your schools provide an important option to parents who wish to choose an Anglican education for their children.

The ASC's current Strategic Plan is very clear on this topic. One of the ASC's five core activities is 'Inclusion'. The plan states that ASC schools are inclusive schools which proactively outreach to create opportunities and an inclusive, supportive environment for students and staff who identify as LGBTI.

I thank each one of you for the important part that you play in helping to fulfil the ASC's mission for your schools to be communities which fulfil the Gospel imperative to teach and live the faith and to continue growing as centres of excellence in teaching and learning, pastoral care, worship and service. There is no greater role than that of educating, nurturing and caring for the young people in our schools.

Grace and peace.

+Kay Perth

**The Most Reverend Kay Goldsworthy AO  
Archbishop**

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