



## **Forum For Change: Education Cluster**

### **A Point of View**

Education shapes the next generation and the future course of society. Therefore everyone has an ongoing interest in how each person is enabled to play their full part in the life of their community. The best education:

- Helps everyone to develop their life-affirming physical, mental, emotional and spiritual capacities to their full potential; for all humans are of infinite value, made in the image of God.
- Promotes the life-long development of character and wisdom, not just the acquisition of skills and knowledge; for true understanding requires discernment.
- Involves families and the local community as closely as possible; for the primary responsibility for education lies with parents and families, not the state, and the context is always our relationships with others.
- Enables each of us to find our place in and contribute to wider society, using all our gifts and resources responsibly; for personal fulfilment is to be found in loving our neighbour.

We challenge churches to consider how, as part of their wider mission to be “salt” and “light” in society, they could be more involved in their local schools and colleges, offering a more distinctively Christian approach to the nurture of children’s lives and social interactions and to the pursuit of the common good through engaged citizenship.

We invite the educational community to take seriously the positive contribution that the Christian worldview has made and continues to make to teaching and learning, and to personal and professional development.

We invite society to welcome the distinctive contribution made by Christian values within the education system to the wellbeing of individuals and communities and to cohesion within families and the wider community in our diverse society.