



# Core Values Document

## About ACCESS ministries

The Council for Christian Education in Schools trading as **ACCESS ministries** is an inter-church body charged with the responsibility for providing Christian education and chaplaincy in State Schools in Victoria, Australia, under the provision of the *Education Act 1958* (revised 1998). It provides this service in partnership with Christian churches.

## The Mission of ACCESS ministries

The mission of the **ACCESS ministries** is to facilitate the Church's mission to school communities—enabling students to explore Christian beliefs, values and behaviours that will provide them with strong foundations for life.

**ACCESS ministries** has twelve nominating churches:

Anglican Church  
Australian Christian Churches (Assemblies of God in Australia)  
Baptist Union  
Christian Brethren Fellowships of Victoria  
Christian Reformed Churches of Australia  
CRC International  
Churches of Christ in Australia  
Lutheran Church of Australia  
Presbyterian Church of Australia  
Salvation Army  
Uniting Church in Australia  
Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia

## Core Values

### Commitment

- to teach, live and commend the Christian faith through the ministry of Christian religious education and pastoral care.

### Caring

- for the educational and personal wellbeing of all people.

### Excellence

- in education, communications, administration and pastoral care.

### Service

- In partnership with churches to school communities—students, teachers, principals, families and friends.

## Statement of Belief

**ACCESS ministries** is an ecumenical body committed to the basic doctrines of the Christian faith drawn from the Old and New Testament Scriptures. It is committed to the three ecumenical creeds (Apostle's Creed, Nicene Creed, Athanasian Creed) and takes into account the faith statements and traditions of its nominating churches.

### **ACCESS ministries affirms:**

- its faith in God, as One-in-Three-Persons, whose redemptive purpose for the world is revealed in the Person of Jesus Christ
- that the Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed in word and deed the presence of the Kingdom of God through mission and evangelism—a calling of people to repentance and a declaration of

God's love in practical ministry to others by enabling reconciliation, peace, wholeness and justice

- God's concern for the whole person in context of his or her being in relation with others and the world, and that God is concerned that justice and mercy form the hallmarks of society
- the redemptive presence of God in the world, and **ACCESS ministries** personnel, along with other Christians, form part of God's presence in the school
- that the Christian tradition recognises the educative and pastoral needs of people and that these needs are to be respectfully and educationally addressed.

## Working Principles

Living by the Core Values of **ACCESS ministries** means:

### For the CCES community

- believing that all people are equal in the sight of God
- demanding of themselves high standards of professional competence and accepting the need to be accountable
- being open to change which enhances the ministry of **ACCESS ministries**
- striving for excellence in ministry and service.

### For CRE teachers

- helping students to explore their lives for meaning and purpose
- introducing children to the religious dimensions of life and ideas of their community
- giving some understanding of the biblical stories, festivals and symbols of the Christian faith
- respecting students' rights to hold their own opinions while giving a broader understanding of the contemporary influences in their culture
- adhering to the agreed syllabus *Religion in Life*<sup>®</sup>.

### For chaplains

- leading students in an open exploration of the Christian faith in a way that is appropriate to their maturity and experience
- respecting the right of students to make and hold their own religious opinions
- helping students to discover life-affirming answers to their search for meaning
- caring for the physical and emotional needs of students, parents and teachers
- fostering respect for the beliefs and attitudes of others.

### For staff

- encouraging the professional, personal and spiritual development of each other encouraging continued personal commitment of time and resources
- being good stewards of time and finances
- striving for good communication and consultation.

### For curriculum development

- developing resources that are biblically based, related to the students' life experience and which teach the Christian understanding of God in action in the world
- developing resources for all students for use in secular and pluralistic settings
- developing resources that help students to explore their lives for meaning and purpose
- developing resources that give students some understanding and engagement with the religious ideas and values of their community, especially of the Christian faith
- develop resources that are educationally sound.

### For fundraising and public relations

- raising funds from churches and the community according to the ethical standards of the Fundraising Institute of Australia
- selling curriculum resources throughout Australia and overseas
- using such funds to enhance the ministry of **ACCESS ministries**
- being faithful stewards of monies in trust
- assuring all administration and publications reflect the Christian standard upheld by **ACCESS ministries**.

### For relationships with others

- building partnerships with the Christian churches
- complementing state education
- supporting Christian religious education organisations similar to **ACCESS ministries**

- working closely with other Christian organisations throughout Australia and overseas engaged in ministry in schools.