

Building Better Relationships in Care and Outreach to our Schools in 2010

Every school day in Queensland about 20,000 children attend a Lutheran educational facility. In 2010, there are, attending our schools, many families with children that are unchurched, or otherwise only in communion with members of a congregation twice annually. This represents a significant opportunity for members of congregations to build healthy, caring and significant relationships with these families.

At our last Synod in 2009, LEQ posed three questions of the synod delegates and they responded following enthusiastic discussions in their groups. What is attached is a summary of the thinking of synod delegates with regard to how schools and congregations can mutually support each other and how congregations without schools can still be involved in the school ministry.

It is unfortunate that despite our considerable investment in schools, teachers, students, systems, and congregations, the relationship between a congregation and its schools is often not as strong and healthy as it could be.

It is perceived that many congregations invest considerable effort in the building of a school mission field, and then fail to invest time and effort in working in the 'as built' mission field. A mode of thought and behaviour has been allowed to develop that if we build a Lutheran School, then parents and children will come to a Lutheran Church without any further effort. Unfortunately, our experience is that this is often far from reality. This effortless transactional relationship school of thought needs to be challenged and corrected.

The enclosed document from LEQ is full of ideas and suggestions that may assist the members of your congregation in developing a full and rich relationship with its schools and the families of children who attend those schools.

May I encourage you to closely examine the relationship that your members and congregation have with the parents and children of nearby Lutheran Schools and Early Learning Centres and in 2010, in an intentional manner, encourage and foster the building of strong relationships with those parents, children and the school community.

District Office looks forward to hearing stories from you about what you have accomplished this year in outreach to parents and children in our Lutheran schools.