



Dear AIC Parents, Students, Staff and Community,

This year marks the 20th year of the Associated Independent Colleges. In those two decades, the AIC has grown to become the largest private school sports organisation in Queensland with more than 11,000 students eligible to compete in activities from our eight member colleges. Each of the member Colleges shares a faith tradition based on Christian values. As we mark the end of our first 20 years, the AIC would like to update you on significant factors that will shape our third decade.

Many people in our wider AIC community are aware of a major review that we undertook across almost three years to ensure that our offerings to schools were suited to a changing era. A highly qualified team based at The University of Queensland considered feedback from more than 4700 parents, staff and students in writing this review. Their report, which was delivered in the first term of 2018, has helped to set our path into the next decade. In looking at our next steps, we are mindful that the Year 12 class of 2020 will graduate under the new QCE 2020 system. This will include a change from the current tertiary entrance system into one that includes external exams and other new assessment expectations on students in their senior schooling. It will replace the Overall Position as the standard pathway to tertiary study in Queensland. The implications on this change are significant for our boys and the school calendar.

The AIC Management Committee would like to note the most important outcomes for our next decade:

- The AIC will continue to **prioritise the enhancement of student wellbeing** through sport. Our offerings are not about the pursuit of sporting glory. They are about the holistic development of our young men. The AIC vision is to develop good and healthy young people through sport and competition within a Christian context. We aim to help them become good people, good citizens and good workers in our communities in years to come. This approach is underpinned by the motto from our AIC charter: *Learning and growth through sport and competition.*
- The AIC will **offer a wider range of sports and activities** to ensure that our students are exposed to as many opportunities as possible while always ensuring that safety is a priority. Rugby league and Australian rules football will commence as trial sports from 2019.
- Our member schools will continue to respect each other by **not recruiting students** for the express purpose of improving school's sporting outcomes.

- The AIC will continue to monitor the impact of the new QCE 2020 system by **considering the school calendar to provide our seniors with the best chance of success.** Each member College is committed to ensuring that students are given every opportunity to succeed. This will involve a change of structure for Term 4 sports while at the same time being mindful that physical activity enhances learning.

We are proud of the impact of our sport offerings in the first 20 years of the AIC. We know that boys thrive in an atmosphere of healthy and safe competition and form connections with their communities that can lead to great learning outcomes. And we emphasise the point that representing our Colleges through sport is a privilege that students earn through their effort and application in their studies. While we do not promote sporting success as the primary goal, rather the benefits of healthy and safe competition, many students from our schools have gone on to reach the highest levels in their sports across the country. This is a great reminder that participation and experience are still invaluable in preparing our young men for their adult lives regardless of the careers they choose to pursue.

You can read more about our charter and our guiding principles on our website (link here to: <http://aicSPORT.com.au/about-aic/>)

Our sincere thanks to all members of our wider AIC community for helping to provide opportunities for tens of thousands of young men across our first 20 years. We hope that the changes that we have made in recent months have us well placed to provide our young men with more opportunities to learn and grow.

Yours sincerely
AIC Management Committee