

## **Michael Spence - Students, Teachers and Learning**

Heavenly Father, in You are all the riches of wisdom and understanding. You promise that the truth shall set us free. We shall not in all eternity exhaust the riches of Your mind.

We pray for our schools, for TAFE, for the colleges and for our universities. May they be places in which wisdom is nurtured and in which truth is found. May they be places of delight, in which learning and discovery are celebrated. May they be places in which your Spirit is at work, drawing both students and staff into ever deeper understandings of Your world.

We pray, Father, for relationships within the learning communities. We pray that they might be marked by respect and by integrity, that staff and students would treat one another well as people who bear Your image. We pray that in the pursuit of truth we would listen to one another, that we would weigh the perspectives of others carefully and not dismiss them lightly or with contempt. We pray that we would use the gift of language with all the care that it deserves.

Finally, we pray for the students of our city. Assist, in particular, all international students. May they find a warm welcome and form deep and lasting relationships in Australia. Protect them from loneliness. Bless all chaplains to schools and other institutions. Bless all those who seek the welfare of students. Grant them effectiveness and compassion in their work. We pray for our students as they make choices that will shape their lives. Give them insight and an ability to decide carefully amongst the many claims to their allegiance. Grant them passion for their study, and a desire to serve. Give them certain hope, and a high ambition to pursue the good.

All these things we pray in the confidence that You are able and that You care, in the name of Him who is the truth, and in the power of Your Spirit. Amen.