

AUTHORISATION OF TEACHERS OF SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SRE) 2009

I am writing to seek your assurance that your organisation currently has in place processes that satisfy the requirements for SRE outlined below.

The Commission for Children and Young People Act, 1998, applies to all religious persuasions approved to conduct or seeking to conduct SRE in government schools.

The Act requires a person whose duties primarily involve direct and unsupervised contact with children and young people to sign a Prohibited Employment Declaration. In signing the declaration, the teacher of SRE is indicating that he or she is not a person prohibited from applying for or remaining in child-related employment based on a criminal history. This requirement is to be complied with by every teacher of SRE.

The Department of Education and Training's requirement goes beyond these statutory requirements. An approved religious persuasion must not authorise, as a teacher of SRE, any person who has not signed a Prohibited Employment Declaration or who has a criminal conviction for:

- a crime against a minor
- violence
- assault or
- providing prohibited drugs.

Your religious persuasion must have a process in place to allow you to provide an assurance to the Department of Education and Training that each teacher authorised meets the above conditions.

In addition to these requirements, approved providers of SRE are reminded of the benefits of providing child protection training to existing and newly authorised teachers of SRE.

SRE teachers employed by a separate Board to implement combined arrangements for SRE must be authorised by all participating persuasions. Such Boards are not approved providers of SRE. Approved providers of SRE are also reminded of the requirements for cross authorisation of teachers acting on behalf of a number of religious persuasions.

Information on these and other SRE related matters can be accessed on the website <http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/> and by choosing "Curriculum policies" then "Religious Education" from the dropdown menu.

The Department is seeking from you a written assurance that these processes are in place for the 2009 school year. Please complete the attached form and return it as indicated by facsimile or to Brian Elliott, Executive Officer, Director-General's Consultative Committee on SRE, Locked Bag 3, RYDE, NSW 2112 by 28 November 2008.

Your positive reply to this letter will ensure that approval continues for your persuasion to provide SRE in government schools.

If you have any further inquiries regarding this matter please contact Brian Elliott on telephone number (02) 9886 7603. Thank you for your support of SRE in NSW government schools.

Yours sincerely

Robert Randall
Chair, Director-General's Consultative Committee on SRE
October 2008

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SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SRE)
2009**

**FAX BACK FORM
Attention: Brian Elliott**

FAX: (02) 9886 7305

I advise on behalf of _____
(religious persuasion)

1. That all SRE teachers have signed a Prohibited Employment Declaration as required under the *Commission for Children and Young People Act, 1998*. In signing the declaration, the teacher of SRE is indicating that he or she is not a person prohibited from applying for or remaining in child-related employment based on a criminal history.

2. That a procedure is in place to ensure that no SRE teacher is authorised who has a criminal conviction for:
 - a crime against a minor
 - violence
 - sexual assault or
 - providing prohibited drugs.

I advise that I am authorised to make this assurance.

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Position: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Please return this faxback form by 28 November 2008