

Did you know?

(The fifth in a series of articles exploring religious education in government schools.)

Can I get involved in special religious education at my school?

Special religious education (SRE) (scripture) is provided for in the Education Act 1990. It involves authorised representatives of approved religious persuasions teaching students whose parents have nominated that persuasion at or subsequent to enrolment.

The religious persuasions need to be approved by the Minister and a list is kept up to date at www.curriculumsupport.edu.au/index.htm. You need to choose Human Society and Its Environment and then Special Religious Education from the left hand menu.

On this site there is also a copy of the policy statement. It indicates that every teacher of SRE must be authorised by the local representative of the approved persuasion. This authorisation involves the teacher completing a Prohibited Employment Declaration Form and indicating that they have no criminal convictions for sexual assault, violence, providing prohibited drugs or any crime against a minor.

For a classroom teacher to be involved in the SRE program it would be necessary for the local representative of the church that you belong to authorise you and for your Principal to agree to you participating in the school program. The Principal is likely to agree unless there are other school duties you must attend to during the SRE time.

You could only teach students whose parents have nominated your persuasion unless there is a combined arrangement operating in your school in which case all the participating persuasion would need to authorise you.

There are many instances of teachers who have participated in SRE programs and found it a rewarding experience.