

August 2011

Greetings to all Special Religious Education (Scripture) Teachers, Helpers, Coordinators, Advocates and Prayer Partners!

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Did you know?... that it is estimated that Special Religious Education (SRE / Scripture) teachers make up the second largest volunteer force in NSW, only behind Surf Lifesaving clubs!

What an amazing commitment this shows to providing Special Religious Education for the children and young people of NSW!!!

And its dedicated individuals like YOU, along with your supporting churches that make this a reality! Truly a blessing!

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Changes to Policy and Implementation Procedures for SRE in NSW

There are new policy and implementation documents coming into place from the Department of Education and Communities (Formally the DET). The Director General's Consultative Committee on SRE (including 7 representatives from ICCOREIS) have been as involved in the feedback and consultative process to amend the policy and guidelines. The new implementation guidelines are online now and the revised policy will be available online once it has been approved.

<http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/policies/religion/implementation/index.htm> (SRE Implementation guidelines)

https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/curriculum/schools/spec_religious/PD20020074.shtml (SRE Policy)

<http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/policies/ethics/index.htm> (Ethics Implementation Policy)

Rest assured there are no drastic changes in this new policy and procedures. A minor change for SRE teachers and helpers is that a name badge from your provider will need to be worn when on school ground to teach SRE. If you already have a UCA name badge, this should be fine. If not, the new authorisation cards will be foldable to fit in a regular plastic name badge holder to display your name and the UCA logo on the front.

Any other practical changes that emerge once the new policy is available will be noted in future SRE email updates.

Joining together in Prayer for Children in Schools

- Are you a part of a local prayer group, either specifically for schools ministry or more broadly?
- Are you keen to start a local prayer group but looking for a way to get started?

If this is you, then put **Friday 2nd September 2011** in your diary and join together – either in person or in spirit – with others passionately praying for children in schools on this day. You might like to invite your group together on this day or hold this as one of your prayer points for the week. The first Friday in September is also the day of prayer for children in schools in Victoria, and it has potential to become even more widespread.

Along with some other members of ICCOREIS, leading up to this day in 2012 we will look at ways we could help support local groups to carry this annual special day of prayer.

So why not join in on Friday 2nd September and then keep an eye out for further details for 2012!

Upcoming Safe Church Workshops

It has been fabulous to see so many SRE teachers updating their child protection training through the SCTA Safe Church Awareness Workshops. **It is an authorisation requirement that *all* SRE teachers complete Safe Church Training** (at least modules 1&2). There are workshops coming up at Uniting Churches in North Parramatta, Menai-Illawong, Canberra, Goulburn, Dapto, and Gosford with many more SCTA-endorsed workshop opportunities offered through other denominations! Check out the calendar of SCTA workshops via our website:

www.childrensministry.org.au/safety-and-protection/upcoming-training-events/
(If you don't have internet access please call Emma Parr – details below)

Share your story!

What are your 'favourite moment' and story from SRE? What did your congregation do to celebrate Education week? How do you connect with schools in your area? If you are happy to share your stories and ideas, send them in! It would be great to share some encouraging stories and achievements from across the state via the SRE update!

Blessings and Prayers for your ministry in Schools and beyond!

If you would like any further information or have any questions about the items in this update, please don't hesitate to contact:

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