

## **Recommendation from the Final Report of the Inquiry into Education Amendment (Ethics Classes Repeal) Bill 2011**

### **Recommendation 1**

That the NSW Government will continue to facilitate the delivery of SEE in NSW government primary schools as an option for students who do not attend SRE.

### **Recommendation 2**

That neither providers of SEE or SRE will receive direct financial support from the Government.

### **Recommendation 3**

That the Department of Education and Communities (DEC) continue to review the age appropriateness of the SEE curriculum and teaching materials.

### **Recommendation 4**

That the DEC, in the revised *Religious Education Implementation Procedures* and the new SEE procedures, requires all providers to post their curriculum outlines and curriculum scope and sequence documents online, and that all relevant curriculum information be presented in the order in which it is taught.

### **Recommendation 5**

That the DEC establishes an open and transparent expression of interest process to allow other organisations to apply to deliver SEE in NSW government primary schools before 2014.

### **Recommendation 6**

That the DEC collects and publishes data annually on the number of students participating in SEE, SRE and for those students who do not attend either.

### **Recommendation 7**

That the DEC includes in its revised *Religious Education Implementation Procedures* recommendations to schools regarding what constitutes adequate supervision for students and for activities that those students not attending SRE or SEE can be meaningfully engaged in, during that timeslot.

### **Recommendation 8**

That the DEC ensures that the revised *Religious Education Implementation Procedures* and SEE implementation procedures are effectively communicated to and implemented by principals once they are finalised.

### **Recommendation 9**

That the DEC requires and monitors SRE and SEE providers to ensure that they have in place a system of accredited initial and ongoing training for their voluntary teachers that includes training in classroom management and child protection issues and that this information is published on the providers' websites.

### **Recommendation 10**

That the Minister for Education investigates the inclusion of philosophy in New South Wales secondary schools as part of the development of the Australian Curriculum.

### **Recommendation 11**

That the DEC ensures that the revised *Religious Education Implementation Procedures* and the SEE implementation procedures include the requirement for the provision of departmental approved fact sheets for parents at the time of enrolment that include information on the available options of SRE, procedures for opting out of SRE and the option of choosing SEE where available, and how to access curriculum information for these options. These fact sheets should be available on the departmental website and individual school websites.

### **Recommendation 12**

That the DEC ensures that the revised *Religious Education Implementation Procedures* and the SEE implementation procedures include templates of letters that can be provided to schools for their use to:

- Advise parents/carers of the various SRE classes available
- Advise parents/carers of any changes in organisation and/or availability of any new SRE classes
- Offer parent/carers of non-SRE students the option to attend SEE classes (advice should be clear to principals that this letter should only be distributed to parents/carers of potential non-SRE students only after an 'opt out' decision by parents/carers has been communicated to the school)
- SRE and SEE letter templates should differ in appearance to avoid confusion for parents/carers.

### **Recommendation 13**

That the DEC ensures that the Learning Services team of the NSW Curriculum and Learning Innovation Centre be adequately staffed and resourced to enable 'in servicing' of school leadership teams with regard to providing support for the implementation of SRE and SEE.

### **Recommendation 14**

That the DEC commissions an independent review of both SRE and SEE in NSW government schools to be conducted by appropriately qualified early childhood educational reviewers in 2014-2015 that includes the following:

- Survey of the nature and extent of SRE and SEE
- DEC Implementation Procedures for SRE and SEE including: parent/carer choice through the enrolment process and opting out; approval of SRE and SEE providers by DEC; authorisation of volunteer teachers and curriculum by providers
- Development of complaints procedures and protocols
- SRE and SEE providers training structures
- Registration of SRE and SEE Boards, Associations and Committees
- New modes of patterns of delivery using technology
- Pedagogy, relevance and age appropriateness of teaching and learning across all primary grades in a variety of demographics
- Need for annual confirmation by parents/carers on SRE choice or opting out
- Review of activities and level of supervision for students who do not attend SRE or SEE.