



**INTER-CHURCH COMMISSION
ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS (NSW) Inc**

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Amendments to the Enrolment Form for Schools

The changes to the NSW DEC enrolment form that occurred in July 2014, have unfortunately caused confusion for parents with regard to Special Religious Education (SRE) and non SRE options in schools.

The Inter Church Commission on Religious Education in Schools (ICCOREIS) has always recognised that parental choice is critical in the selection of SRE or the non SRE options, being Special Ethics Education (SEE) or other supervised activities.

As such, ICCOREIS member Churches, along with representatives of the major faiths who provide SRE, have consulted with each other, the DEC, and all sides of politics to recommend modifications that provide real clarity and help parents to make informed choices.

We are grateful to the DEC for moving to rectify the issues with the enrolment form. This recognises the place of SRE as a strength of Public Education in our multi-faith and multi-cultural society, whilst continuing to provide clear choices and understanding for parents of non-SRE options available in schools at a local level.

The changes being proposed for the enrolment form and associated documents for schools and parents will ensure effective communication and implementation of SRE and non-SRE options.

SEE is only available in some primary schools; it is not available in high schools. Therefore, the removal of SEE from the enrolment form reflects the place of SEE as a non SRE option.

In schools where SEE might be available, parents will be easily able to make that choice after opting out of SRE.

Mr. Neville Cox
ICCOREIS Chairperson
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Representing the dioceses of the Anglican Church of Australia from the Province of NSW, the dioceses of the Roman Catholic Church in NSW, the Uniting Church in Australia NSW Synod, the Baptist Union of NSW, the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of NSW, the Churches of Christ in NSW, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, the Lutheran Church of Australia NSW District, The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory, the Fellowship of Congregational Churches, the Assemblies of God in NSW, the Christian Brethren Assemblies in NSW, the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia, the Serbian Orthodox Church in Australia and New Zealand - NSW and ACT Deaneries.