



NEW SOUTH WALES SCRIPTURE TEACHERS INFORMATION

NEW SOUTH WALES

There are many hundreds of Special Religious Education (or Scripture) teachers serving in our schools. Their contribution to the Christian education of many thousands of young lives is greatly appreciated, and their dedication to the task of explaining the truths of the Christian faith is a great encouragement and example to all. There are two matters that all SRE teachers in local schools need to note:

1. AUTHORISATION

All teachers and SRE helpers entering schools to provide Presbyterian Special Religious Education must be authorised by their local Church. This authorisation takes the form of a signed Authorisation Card. It must be carried with you whenever you are teaching in the school, and can be asked for by the principal/school.

2. DECLARATION REGARDING CRIMINAL CONVICTION

Following advice from the NSW Ombudsman, the Department of School Education has introduced a requirement that all authorised religious persuasions must provide annually to the Department a written assurance that they have procedures in place to ensure compliance with the requirement that no SRE teacher is authorised to teach who has a criminal offence which involves:

- any offence against a minor person
- an act of violence towards another person or
- sexual assault.

If you have any questions about these matters, please contact the Child Protection Unit on (02) 9690 9324.

3. WHAT TO DO TO OBTAIN AUTHORISATION

To be an authorised SRE teacher, you must:

- Complete and sign an SRE Authorisation Form - this is sent to the Child Protection Unit for processing.
- Complete and sign a Prohibited Persons Declaration- this is sent to the Child Protection Unit for processing.
- Complete and sign a Job Description - a copy is to be held at the pastoral charge.
- Complete the required child protection training - a record is held at the pastoral charge.

Send the above forms to:

Child Protection Unit
Presbyterian Social Services
P O Box 2196
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012



NEW SOUTH WALES SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHER AUTHORISATION FORM

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Town/Suburb: _____ Postcode: _____
 Telephone: _____
 Pastoral Charge: _____
 Presbytery: _____

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. I agree to carry out my task as a Special Religious Education (SRE) teacher in accordance with the principles and policies of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of NSW and the guidelines of the NSW Department of School Education. I undertake to exercise due care for the safety and behaviour of the students when teaching or supervising them. The teaching given to students in the SRE classroom shall at all times be of the highest quality possible.
2. I acknowledge that the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of NSW has special responsibilities to students, their parents, a carers and to the school authorities because of the opportunities given to the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of NSW to instruct students in SRE.
3. I agree to carry out my task as an SRE in accordance with the conditions of this form.
4. I provide my services on the above basis to the Presbyterian Church of Australian in the State of NSW and I acknowledge that I am responsible to my authorising agent: _____
5. I understand that my authorising agent can terminate my engagement if I fail to meet my commitments as set out on this form and I agree that upon termination I will promptly deliver my authorisation Card to my authorising agent.
6. I agree that if any complaint of sexual misconduct is made against me, my authorising agent may suspend my engagement immediately until such time as the matter is resolved.

Signature: _____

STATUTORY DECLARATION

I hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that:

- a) I do not have any criminal conviction which involves:
 - i) A crime against a child
 - ii) An act of violence towards another person
 - iii) Sexual assault
 - iv) Provision of prohibited drugs.
- b) I understand that I may be asked to agree to be screened to ascertain my suitability
- c) If I am charged with any crime referred to in (a), I will promptly notify my authorising agent.

And I make this declaration conscientiously declaring it to be true and in accordance with the provisions of the Oaths Act 1990.

Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Witness: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

(Justice of the Peace or Solicitor)