



Religious Education Advisory Committee

Date/Time: 19 August 2009

Location: Floor 7 Conference Room

Attendees: Brisbane Sikh Temple – Gurdwara, Queensland Teachers' Union, Australian Christian Churches, Catholic Education, Southport State School representing districts, Queensland Secondary Principals Association, Christian Outreach Centre, Association of Special Education Administrators in Queensland, Catholic Bishops of Queensland, Apostolic Church of Australia and Baptist Union of Qld, Anglican Province of Queensland and Anglican Schools Commission, SU Queensland, Queensland Parents and Citizens Association, Churches of Christ and Department of Education and Training.

Apologies: Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, Christian Brethren Assemblies, Presbyterian Church of Queensland, Lutheran Church of Australia

Secretariat: Department of Education and Training

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Apologies

Agenda Item 2: Confirmation of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes of March 4 2009 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the last meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Feedback on the religious diversity fact sheets developed in Western Australia has been provided by the representative of Brisbane Sikh Temple. A draft Sikh Fact Sheet was tabled. Discussion occurred about development of a template for fact sheets about the other major religions.

Agenda Item 4: Right to Information Act 2009 and Information Privacy Act 2009

The Chair provided advice on the new legislation and the impact on REAC. REAC minutes will be published on the departmental website using a departmental minutes template. Issues discussed included:

- Diversity of viewpoints within REAC to be reflected in minutes including discussions that may not necessarily have an outcome or action.
- Minutes to be ratified and published on the website.
- Participants are to reflect their organisation's position and this will be recorded in the minutes.

Action 4.1: REAC members to be provided with a link to the webpage that will be used for publication of REAC minutes.

Agenda Item 5: Religious Instruction (RI) and Chaplaincy in Queensland State Schools policies

- The religious instruction policy is still under review. The RI *Blue Book* is ready to be published on the website pending approval of the policy.
- Further work is progressing on development of a service agreement between DET and accredited employing authorities of chaplains.

Action 5.1: Draft RI *Blue Book* will be emailed to all REAC members.

Agenda Item 6: Other Business

Minutes

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National School Chaplaincy Program

Interest in the review of chaplaincy services, *The Effectiveness of Chaplaincy – as provided by the National School Chaplaincy Association to Government Schools* (Edith Cowan University, Sept 09) was raised.

Action 6.1: Student Services will contact the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) to see if there is a published report on the review.

Accrediting Employing Authorities

A sub-committee teleconference was suggested as part of the process of accrediting an employing authority for accountability purposes.

Action 6.2: Student Services to review the process for accrediting employing authorities.

Religious Diversity Fact Sheets

A working group will be formed to progress fact sheets. The Sikh fact sheet will be used as a template. It was suggested for inclusivity that a sentence be put on the website when published inviting submissions from other faith groups.

Action 6.3: REAC members interested in being on the working group will email Student Services.

Agenda Item 7: Next Meeting

1.30pm 18 November 2009, **Level 2, Room 4, 80 George Street, Brisbane.**

Meeting closed at: 3.30pm

Actions

A summary of actions is provided below

Ref	Actions	Responsible Officer	Due Date
4.1	REAC members will be provided with a link to the webpage that will publish the REAC minutes.	Executive Officer	When available
5.1	Draft RI Blue Book will be emailed to all REAC members. (Edits currently being made.)	Executive Officer	11/11/09
6.1	Student Services will contact DEEWR to enquire about the review of the National School Chaplaincy Program.	Executive Officer	26/10/09
6.2	Student Services to review the process for accrediting employing authorities.	Executive Officer	18/11/09
6.3	REAC members interested in being on the fact sheets' working group will email Executive Officer.	REAC members	18/11/09

These minutes are a public record. However the Department of Education and Training (DET) may redact information from the publicly released version of these minutes if DET intends to claim an exemption from disclosure under the *Right to Information Act 2009*. If such a claim is made by DET it will be noted at the relevant part of these minutes.