

**Religious Education Advisory Committee
Members' Attendance 2008 as at 19 November 2008**

Item 2.

Representative	Organisation Represented	
CHAIR	Department of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA)	√
	Queensland Teachers' Union	√
	Australian Christian Churches	A
	Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia	A
	Christian Outreach Centre	X
	Seventh-day Adventist Schools (South Qld) Ltd	X
	Presbyterian Church of Queensland	X
	Catholic Education	√
	Buddhist Council of Queensland Inc.	√
	Christian Brethren Assemblies	X
	Southport Primary School representing districts	√
	Queensland Secondary Principals Association	X
	Youth & Children's Ministry Unit (Uniting Church)	A
	Association of Special Education Administrators in Qld	X
	Representative from the Qld Indigenous Education Consultative Committee	A
	Department of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA)	√
	Catholic Bishops of Queensland	√
	The Salvation Army	X
	Queensland Association of Primary School Principals	√
	Lutheran Church of Australia (Queensland District)	√
	Apostolic Church of Australia and Baptist Union of Qld	√
	Islamic Council of Queensland	X
	Anglican Province of Qld & Anglican Schools Commission	√
Executive Officer	Department of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA)	√
	SUQ	√
	Queensland Parents and Citizens Association	√
	Bahá'í Council for Queensland	X
	Churches of Christ	A

Religious Education Advisory Committee Minutes of the meeting of 19 November 2008
Floor 12, Boardroom, Education House
Chair: A/Executive Director, Student Services Division

Item	Notes	Action
1. Introductions	Meeting was opened by Chair at 1.00pm Welcome to a new representative from the Presbyterian Church of Queensland. A one minute silence for private prayer and reflection was provided.	
2. Apologies	<p>Present Representatives of: Qld Teachers Union, Catholic Education, Buddhist Council of Queensland Inc, Southport State School (representing EQ districts), SUQ, Catholic Bishops of Queensland, Queensland Association of Primary School Principals, Lutheran Church of Australia (Queensland District), Presbyterian Church of Queensland, Apostolic Church of Australian and Baptist Union of Queensland, Anglican Province of Qld and Anglican Schools Commission, Bahá'í Council for Queensland, Queensland Council of Parents and Citizens Associations, Department of Education, Training and the Arts</p> <p>Acknowledged Guests: Assistant Director-General, Student Services</p> <p>Apologies Representatives of: Australian Christian Churches, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, Representative from the Qld Indigenous Education Consultative Committee, Youth and Children's Ministry Unit (Uniting Church), Churches of Christ</p>	
3. Items to be added	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates for 2009 • Employing authority application • Policies update • Questions from the QTU • Recommended reading 	Chair Representative of Apostolic Church of Australia and Baptist Union of Qld Representative of Catholic Bishops of Qld Representative of QTU Representative of Presbyterian Church of Qld
4. Minutes of the previous meeting of 1 November 2007		
5. Business arising from minutes	<p>5.1 Executive Officer to amend previous minutes to reflect request for removal of all belief systems to a diverse variety of belief systems. The words that were referred to were a quote from the document that was being discussed so changing the words would not be appropriate.</p> <p>5.2 Student Services will address 'approval of the principal' from the EQ Employees teaching RI statement in the review of the RI policy RI policy is currently under review and this issue is being taken into account.</p> <p>5.3 Executive Officer to arrange a time with representative of Qld Indigenous Education Consultative Committee (QIECC) to re-word the section on Indigenous Spiritualities. The Executive Officer met with representatives of QIECC on 19 September 2008 and re-worded the section on Indigenous Spiritualities in the Terms of Reference.</p>	

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	<p>5.4 Executive Officer to email electronic version of Terms of Reference and provide REAC members with a timeframe to respond. On 25 September all REAC members received the modified Terms of Reference for comment. three people responded that they were happy with the document.</p> <p>5.5 Executive Officer to inform REAC members when changes to the Chaplaincy policy have been uploaded onto the website Chaplaincy policy is currently under review.</p> <p>5.6 REAC members to provide feedback on the 'Bible Readings in Schools' document to the Executive Officer by 30 September 2008. No feedback provided.</p> <p>5.7 Executive Officer to provide all REAC members with an electronic version of the publication 'Bible Reading in Schools' Members received a copy in July 2008.</p> <p>5.8 Executive Officer to provide amended version of EQ Prayer Statement to REAC members prior to the next REAC Meeting. The finalised prayer statement was provided at REAC meeting of 19 November 2008.</p> <p>5.9 Link to 'Combating the Defamation of Religions: a Report of the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights' to be emailed out to REAC members. Link emailed on 25 September 2008.</p> <p>5.10 Opportunity to discuss the document will be provided at the REAC meeting of 19 November 2008. This will be Agenda item 8.1.</p> <p>5.11 Executive Officer to provide REAC members with a breakdown of chaplains to youth workers. Information was provided to all REAC members on 25 September 2008.</p> <p>5.12 Executive Officer to provide REAC members with a link to the new guidelines for the National School Chaplaincy Programme. The new guidelines were emailed to REAC members on 25 September 2008 as they are not presently on the website.</p> <p>5.13 Executive Officer to email PowerPoint on policy review to REAC members. Emailed to all REAC members on 25 September 2008.</p> <p>5.14 Executive Officer to provide REAC members with the link to Student Protection</p>	

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	<p>Training. Student Protection Training is not accessible to all. Explanation of Student Protection Training will be addressed in agenda item 8.2.</p>	
6. Correspondence – Inwards	Baha'i Council for Queensland – Appointment of a new Baha'i representative on REAC	
Correspondence -Outwards		
7. Business arising from correspondence	Nil	
8. General Business		
8.1 <i>'Combating the defamation of religions: a report of the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights'</i>	<p>A discussion about the paper and the statistics relating to persons identifying as no religion or non-stated was highlighted. It was noted that there is a difference between identifying as 'religious' or 'spiritual'. The diversity of beliefs was also recognised.</p> <p>Concern was raised around low attendance of minor religious groups represented on REAC. It was suggested that this may be due to irrelevance of REAC group, the volunteer nature of the work or understaffing in smaller organisations. It was suggested that REAC meet more than four times a year to 'workshop'. It was highlighted that meetings should be kept to a minimum and not to have meetings for meetings sake.</p>	Executive Officer to contact REAC members who have not attended regularly to encourage attendance at future meetings.
8.2 <i>Student Protection Training</i>	The Chair explained processes for student protection training. Student Protection Training requires an EQ ID. For this reason it is important that chaplains or religious instruction teachers approach the principal of the school who will decide if the chaplain or religious instruction teacher requires on-line training or fact sheets. Certificates are provided at the end of the on-line training.	Executive Officer to provide REAC members with a link to the student protection training fact sheets.
8.3 Employing Authority Application	The Assistant Director-General Student Services advised that the current application to become an employing authority of chaplains was currently being considered. Recommendations from the Advisory Committee for employing authorities of chaplains (ACEA) have been acknowledged and further information was requested from the applicant.	
8.4 Policies Update	The <i>Religious Instruction in school Hours</i> and <i>Chaplaincy Services in Queensland State Schools</i> policies are in the final stages and REAC members will be informed once they are live on the internet.	Executive Officer to inform REAC members when the policies are live on the internet.
8.5 Questions from the QTU	The representative of the QTU wished to re-table questions posed by the QTU in a previous REAC meeting.	Student Services will provide advice directly to QTU.

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8.6 Questions from the QTU	<p>The representative of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland recommended two books on Youth Culture and Spirituality;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Spirit of Generation Y by Michael Mason, Andrew Singleton & Ruth Webber 2. What is happening to our girls? By Maggie Hamilton 	
8.7 Dates for 2009	<p>4 March 2009 17 June 2009 19 August 2009 18 November 2009</p>	
9. Reports a) Religious groups	<p>150 people attended the RENEW annual conference on 23 October 2008. RENEW would like to thank the department for allowing the REAC Executive Officer to attend.</p>	
10. Any other business	<p>10.1 Representation on REAC A concern was raised that members representing minority groups are not attending frequently.</p> <p>10.2 Christmas Cake REAC members wish to thank one of the representative's mother for her delicious Christmas cake, which was very much appreciated.</p>	<p>Executive Officer to contact REAC members who have not attended regularly to encourage attendance at future meetings.</p>
<p>Meeting closed 2.10pm Next meeting 4 March 2009</p>		