Why is there SRE in Public Schools?

The Public Instruction Act 1880

Education Act 1990 (Section 32)
SRE to be “...given to children of any religious persuasion...”

NSW Premier, and NSW Minister for Education.

Religious Education Policy – Religious Education Implementation Procedures (REIP)

NSW Department of Education Consultative Committee for Special Religious Education

Chaired by The Director, Early Learning and Primary Education, who monitors the implementation of the policy.

Consists of Dep’t of Education reps, SRE reps, including ICCOREIS (SRE lobby group), Primary Principals’ Assoc rep, Secondary Principals’ Council rep, P&C rep, Teachers’ Federation rep (vacant).

10 reps identify as evangelical Christians

Does not include Primary Ethics, NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA).

Principals

The REIP states that parents have the right to complain to principals, and that principals monitor SRE at schools, yet principals have no authority to control whether SRE runs, no authority to control the content, and no authority to control the behaviour of SRE instructors.

This group advises the Minister on SRE policy, including the enrolment form, vetting or recommending applications by new providers, interpreting and implementing policy, and setting the terms of reference for the 2015 review. Recommendations in the report of the review which the Dep’t supports are to be implemented by this committee.

Fred Nile holds the balance of power in the Senate.

Robb Stokes, NSW Minister for Education, is an evangelical Christian. Mark Scott, secretary of NSW Department of Education, is an evangelical Christian

This process results in SRE policy being biased towards the providers at the expense of students, parents and principals.

Principals cannot criticise the policies of the Dep’t of Education. Nor can other Dep’t of Education employees. That leaves the P&C and Teachers’ Federation representatives as the only possible voices of differing views.