

Ms Cheryl Best
A/Executive Director, Learning and Teaching
Level 3, 1 Oxford Street,
DARLINGHURST NSW 2010

Dear Ms Best

Complaint regarding the response of Mr Garrie Russell (R/Director, Early Learning and Primary Education) to a request for information from the parent advocacy group, Fairness in Religions in School

Fairness in Religions in School (FIRIS) is writing to lodge a formal complaint regarding the response of Mr Garrie Russell (R/Director, Early Learning and Primary Education) (**see attachment 3**) to correspondence (**see attachments 1 & 2**) requesting information regarding the combined arrangements associated with the provision of SRE at Pennant Hills High School, Cherrybrook Technology High School, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

FIRIS has concerns that, in consideration of Mr Russell's responsibilities as outlined in sections 4 and 5 of the Religious Education Policy and his failure to provide appropriate answers to the specific questions asked by FIRIS, that the NSW Department of Education (the Department) is not fulfilling its duty of care obligations to all NSW Government school students.

FIRIS believes that Mr Russell's response, in addition to previous responses from the Department, demonstrates that the Department is failing to effectively monitor the activities of combined arrangements in NSW public schools, thereby increasing the risk of unauthorised personnel gaining access to NSW public school students.

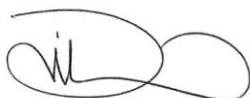
In order to dispel these concerns, FIRIS is asking you to provide the following information regarding Pennant Hills High School, Cherrybrook Technology High School, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] -

1. a list of the approved Special Religious Education (SRE) providers making up the combined arrangement responsible for the provision of SRE instructors at each school.
2. a list of any other NSW Government schools associated with the combined arrangements identified in response to 1 above.
3. the name/s of the approved providers responsible for authorising the SRE instructors at each school and any other SRE instructors provided by the combined arrangements (identified in response to 1 above) to any other NSW Government schools.
4. **the names of the approved providers responsible for the monitoring of the Working With Children Check of the SRE instructors at each of the four schools** and any other SRE instructors provided by the combined arrangements (identified in response to 1 above) to any other NSW Government schools.
5. the names of the approved providers responsible for authorising the SRE curricula used at each of the four schools and any other SRE curricula used by the combined arrangement (identified in response to 1 above) in any other NSW Government schools.

6. the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of the lesson content and/or program outline and curriculum scope and sequence documents of the curricula authorised for use by the approved providers identified in your response to Request 5.

FIRIS looks forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



Dr Darrin Morgan
NSW Operations Director
Fairness in Religions in School

16 October 2018

**Copy to: Mr Jihad Dib, Shadow Minister for Education
Mr David Shoebridge, Member of the NSW Legislative Council (Greens)**