



Dubbo Secondary Christian Education Association
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Chairperson: Dianne Phillis
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Treasurer: Colin Johnston

Easter 2020



Dear DSCEA Supporter

When we gathered at the Baptist church on 4th February (just over two months ago!) to commission and pray for our SRE teachers in Dubbo, we had no idea what lay just ahead of us! But none of this has taken our God by surprise. He is still acting in love in this rebellious world.

The year got off to a good start for our secondary SRE, as you can see from Peter's letter. But now, our "normal" program is clearly on hold.

So what is happening now?

- All face-to-face SRE teaching in government schools was suspended after 23 March, as all volunteers were excluded from schools. (SRE teachers are classed as volunteers, even if they are being paid.)
- Staff at Generate* are working hard to make more resources available for our teachers. There is a possibility that some schools may make provision for on-line SRE teaching during this crisis.
- Teachers are using this time for upgrading and enhancing their professional expertise, using on-line courses from Generate and ICCOREIS*. They are also preparing lesson materials, either for use on-line (if possible; they are still negotiating the possibility) or later when face-to-face classes resume.

What do we need to do now?

- We need to pray for our schools, their teachers, students and ancillary staff. This is the most challenging time they have ever faced.
- We need to keep on supporting our teacher, Peter Volkofsky, and encouraging him. Keep praying for him. Keep reminding your church to pray and encourage and support.
- We need to pray for the many young people who are at risk of giving up on school; many were struggling before this, and now it is just becoming too hard for them or their families.
- Pray that SRE will be able and ready to resume when schools are able to receive volunteers again.
- Pray for those children and teachers who were showing signs of moving towards God, that they will continue to seek Him.
- Thank God that most children who are infected get mild symptoms; pray for their protection.

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

Yours in Christ

Dianne Phillis

* Information about Generate and ICCOREIS is in another attachment in case you need to refresh your memory.

Info about SRE

Special Religious Education (SRE) has been part of NSW schooling since 1849. The current NSW Education Act requires that time be allocated for religious education in all government schools, and, in the case of Christian SRE, that this teaching be delivered by authorised persons representing the Christian faith.

SRE allows approved providers, usually from local churches, to enter Government Schools during school hours, and teach about their distinctive beliefs, values and practices. The number of hours and days set aside for SRE each week is determined by each individual school, but there are minimum requirements set by the Government.

Under this arrangement:

- Parents have a choice about whether or not their children attend SRE classes.
- Denominations usually agree to work together so that they teach children from different churches in the same class.
- All teachers must
 - be accredited by an approved provider of SRE (these approved providers are listed on the website of the NSW Department of Education)
 - have some professional and theological training
 - have a current Working with Children number
 - undertake regular refresher training in Safe Ministry and professional development
 - use the agreed curriculum approved by their provider.

SRE in Dubbo Primary Schools

- The Ministers' Fraternal coordinates primary SRE in Dubbo.
- They have agreed to use a curriculum called GodSpace. This provides Teacher Manuals, Magazines for kids with activities for each lesson, USB card containing songs, Powerpoints, dramas etc
- There are about 3000 primary school children in Dubbo SRE classes
- There are about 30 volunteers teaching SRE in Dubbo primary schools.
- The churches have agreed to cover the cost of the materials for the teachers and students. This amounts to a bit less than \$15000 in total; about \$5 per child. Very good bang for your buck! The Ministers' Fraternal will invoice the churches.
- Jonathan Luckensmeyer receives financial support because he is teaching SRE full time, covering most of the classes at Buninyong and Orana primary schools.

SRE in Dubbo Secondary Schools

Dubbo Secondary Christian Education Association (DSCEA) was formed by the Dubbo churches in 2009 to raise support and employ teachers for teaching SRE in Dubbo Secondary schools.

Currently we have one teacher, Peter Volkofsky, teaching Year 7 students at both South and Delroy campuses of Dubbo College. (Peter also teaches at Narromine, Coonamble, Coonabarabran and Baradine.)

Our budget is about \$40,000 per year; this works out at about \$5 per lesson per student; good value for money!

Contact us by email at dsceai@gmail.com or phone 0405 396 627

Other Organisations involved:

Generate (<https://generate.org.au>) was founded to support Christian work in NSW government schools. It runs a chaplaincy program and also enables SRE, especially in secondary schools. Generate is also active in liaison with the government and the Department of Education about SRE matters. DSCEA is affiliated with Generate; they handle the legal/insurance/ training needed for supporting our teacher.

Inter-Church Commission on Religious Education in Schools aka **ICCOREIS** (<https://www.iccoreis.asn.au>)

This organisation represents most of the approved providers of SRE in NSW. It encourages cooperation and runs training courses for SRE teachers.

How you can support this work financially

All donations are tax deductible. If you give your details to Generate, you will receive a tax receipt at the end of the financial year.

Use one of these three ways.

- a) Through the website: dubbo.oursre.org.au
Select "Donate to this Board"

OR

- b) **Direct deposit**

Westpac Bank 032 016 Account 354 950

In the "Reference" Box write **10337 and your name**

For a tax receipt email: accounts@generate.org.au

OR

- c) Send a cheque made out to **Generate Ministries** to

PO Box 627 PENRITH NSW 2751

Make it clear that it is for **Dubbo Secondary Christian Education**