

7 February 2024

Dear Commissioners,

I am very concerned about the draft proposal to take SRE and SU out of DGR status. I am a SRE teacher across four primary schools and a board member of a local committee of churches supporting high school SRE in our area. I'm also employed part time as a public-school wellbeing support officer (formerly national school chaplaincy program). I see my role as an SRE teacher as distinct but as significant as my wellbeing job, critical to giving children hope, meaning and purpose, an ethical framework for life as well as many other things. In primary schools, we are a huge volunteer force, in the high school we depend on generous donations to support our teacher salaries and resources.

I do not earn much, but I am generous with my time and do make regular philanthropic gifts. I appreciate the DGR status for my financial contributions.

I am asking the government to maintain or increase their support for this, not reduce it:

- DGR status to be maintained for religious education in government schools.
- Volunteers within the faith communities recognised within the DGR system.

Thank you,

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