

State-Wide Christian RI Cooperative Arrangement

Title – *State-Wide Christian Religious Instruction Cooperative Arrangement*

Parties – The Christian denominations and churches signatories to this Arrangement that provide religious instruction ('RI') in Queensland state schools.

Preamble

Christian Religious Instruction ('Christian RI') has for many years been provided at local state schools under co-operative arrangements in accordance with the approval processes of the Queensland Department of Education. It is multi-denominational and provides quality RI program resources for instruction by trained and accredited instructors to children and young people, consistent with Departmental policies and procedures. (Current list of authorised RI program resources is outlined on <http://www.christianri.org.au> website under Information for Schools tab.) It helps children and young people see themselves in the light of the Christian story as revealed in the Old and New Testaments, and lived by the Church through the ages. It guides and encourages children and young people to explore the values of the Christian Faith, how these can be expressed within their lives, their communities and society at large. Christian RI acknowledges that it operates in a pluralist and multi-cultural society, and encourages the respect of others and their cultures, belief systems and values.

Acknowledgement – It is acknowledged that in accordance with the *Religious Instruction Policy Statement* (28 November 2018, retrieved on 7 August 2019) of the Queensland Department of Education, local single (denominational) and co-operative (ie multi-denominational) arrangements for religious instruction operate at school level in schools where RI is provided. It is further acknowledged that such arrangements have been made by the local religious leaders and RI is provided by local accredited representatives in accordance with the Policy Statement.

Purpose

The purposes of this *State-wide Christian RI Cooperative Arrangement* ('the State-wide Arrangement') are -

- 1 to provide state-level recognition by the parties to the State-wide Arrangement ('the Parties') of the local single (denominational) and co-operative (multi-denominational) Christian RI arrangements operating from time to time at school level
- 2 to enhance the provision of Christian RI through a collective state-wide approach by the Parties,
- 3 to maximise the availability of and access to Christian RI at school level irrespective of which denomination/church is represented in the local Christian RI co-operative arrangement,
- 4 to enhance informed consent of parents electing for their child to participate in RI, and when indicating the 'Christian RI' option as their preferred choice of RI program, and
- 5 for the State-wide Arrangement to complement the local co-operative arrangements.

Principles

The Parties to the State-wide Arrangement agree to the following -

- 1 **The local cooperative arrangement.** We encourage and support the local cooperative (multi-denominational) arrangements for Christian RI at Queensland state schools that provide instruction in Christian RI for children whose parents have indicated their preferred option of 'Christian RI' in the RI section of the *Application for Student Enrolment Form* (or by other written instruction to the school)

- 2 Parents whose preferred option is 'Christian RI'.** Subject to paragraph 4 below, where there is a local cooperative arrangement for Christian RI at a school we encourage and support a parent indicating their preferred option as 'Christian RI' in the RI section of the *Application for Student Enrolment Form* (or by other written instruction).
- 3 'Christian RI' where there is no single denominational RI.** Where there is no local single denominational RI arrangement at a school, we encourage and support a parent indicating their preferred option as 'Christian RI'. If the parent specifies a denomination in the RI section of the *Application for Student Enrolment Form* (or by other written advice) but that denomination is not a party to the local cooperative arrangement for Christian RI, we support their child being placed in 'Christian RI'.
- 4 Where there is single denominational RI along side of 'Christian RI'.** Where there is a local single denominational RI arrangement at a school (eg Catholic RI) and a parent has specified that particular denomination in the RI section of the *Application for Student Enrolment Form* (or by other written advice) then we support the parent's choice of that single denominational RI.

Inconsistency

In the event of an inconsistency between this State-wide Arrangement and a local Christian RI co-operative arrangement this State-wide Arrangement shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

Variations

The State-wide Arrangement may be varied by consensus of all the Parties after two (2) months consideration of a proposed variation.

Withdrawal

A Party may withdraw from the State-wide Arrangement by giving no less than six (6) months written notice to each of the other Parties of their intention to withdraw from the Arrangement.

Record Keeping

The Christian Religious Instruction Association Queensland (CRIAQ) will act as the document control trustee for this Arrangement document on behalf of its signatories. All signatories will be issued with a copy of the signed document. Requests by a signatory to notify other parties of their intent to propose variations or their intent to withdraw from this State-wide Arrangement can be directed to the Chair of the Governance Committee of CRIAQ. The Chair will immediately advise who the signatories are so that a signatory can act.

Signatories:

"As at 30 November 2020, the signatories to the State Wide Cooperative Arrangement are as follows: Uniting Church in Australia Queensland, Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane, Anglican Church of Southern Queensland, Australian Christian Churches (Qld & NT), The Queensland Baptists, Churches of Christ in Queensland, Presbyterian Church of Queensland, Lutheran Church of Australia Queensland Division, Salvation Army Queensland Division, Wesleyan Methodist Church, Acts Global Church, International Network of Churches, Acts2Alliance, Queensland Congregational Churches, Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches."