

# RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN STATE SCHOOLS

**Scope:** This policy applies to catechists who deliver Catholic Religious Instruction in State Schools within the Diocese of Rockhampton.

## 1. POLICY STATEMENT

Parishes discern appropriate and realistic goals for Religious Instruction in State Schools in their own parish and choose the model of ministry most suited to their community and their available teachers.

## 2. DESCRIPTION

Religious Instruction is permitted in state schools under the provision of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006. The conduct of all Religious Instruction (RI) must be in accordance with the Religious Instruction Policy Statement of the Queensland Department of Education and Training.

In accordance with the above procedural document, Catholic RI teachers in state schools within the Diocese of Rockhampton offer RI in either of two forms - denominational (where Catholic students are taught by Catholic teachers) and co-operative. In the co-operative model, various churches agree to present a combined RI program co-operatively. This model is most commonly adopted in the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton.

This policy clarifies the decision making process for parishes in the area of Religious Instruction in state schools.

## 3. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

1. All programs to be used by Catholic RI teachers in state schools will be approved by the Bishop and communicated to parishes through the Diocesan Coordinator: Faith Education and Formation.
2. Parishes who decide to join with other churches to form an ecumenical team for the provision of cooperative Religious Instruction follow the guidelines presented in the Religious Instruction Policy Statement of the Queensland Department of Education and Training and its supporting documents.



3. Where a model of co-operative Religious Instruction is used, provision should be made in parishes to catechise Catholic children through parish programs such as Children's Liturgies of the Word and sacramental programs.

#### 4. REFLECTION MATERIAL

##### WEBSITES

- Queensland Government *Religious Instruction Policy Statement*. (retrieved 16 February 2016, from Queensland Department of Education and Training:  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/school-operations/ri-policy-statement.html>)

##### LEGISLATION

- Queensland Government Education (General Provisions) Act 2006: Chapter 5 Religious Instruction
- Queensland Government Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 Regulations Part 5 Religious Instruction

##### RESOURCES

- Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (2010) *The Impulse of God's Grace: Pastoral Letter on the Centenary of the Ecumenical Movement 2010*
- Bishop Michael Putney *Principles of Ecumenism*
- Churches' Education Committee of Qld Churches Together Qld *Co-operative Religious Education*
- Congregation of the Clergy (1997) *General Catechetical Directory*
- Pope John Paul II (1993) *Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism*
- Pope John-Paul II (1995) *Ut Unum Sint (That They May All Be One)*: Encyclical Letter on commitment to ecumenism.