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# SRE

Faithfully teaching our children

**OCTOBER 2010**

[www.pynsw.org.au/sre](http://www.pynsw.org.au/sre)



## SRE Celebration—21st September

On Tuesday 21st September, an Inter-Faith Celebration of Special Religious Education was held within the NSW Department of Education and Training building in the Sydney CBD. It was organised by Peter Adamson, PY's SRE Director, as the Deputy Chair of ICCOREIS (Inter Church Commission on Religious Education). There were addresses by the Hon. Verity Firth

MP (Minister for Education), the Anglican Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Islamic Council of NSW, the Jewish Board of Deputies and the Australian Christian Lobby. The Presbyterian Church was represented by the Moderator, Peter Graham, and other Presbyterian ministers and congregational members who attended.

- Praise God for the positive turnout—there was standing room only—and the strong message of support for SRE that came through the meeting.
- Praise God for the commitment to SRE that was given by Verity Firth (although no guarantee was given that there won't be ethics as well). Pray for her, her department and the whole government as they make decisions about SRE and options for non-SRE.

## For prayer: what's happening this month...

**Murray Norman** is meeting with Adrian Piccoli MP (Shadow Minister for Education, Skills and Youth Affairs) to discuss the opposition's policy making on SRE. Please pray for clear presentation and a good reception so that a positive outcome may arise from this meeting.

**Dr Sue Knight** is busy preparing her report on the ethics trial in 10 schools. This will be handed to the Government at the end of October and form the basis of their decision-making. Pray for her as she works through submissions from churches, faith groups and interested parties and summarises them into a report.

*Welcome to the first edition of the SRE Prayer Newsletter. We hope that this will keep you informed about the ministry that is happening in schools all over NSW, and encourage you to keep thanking God for this valuable opportunity and praying regularly for SRE teachers and students. If you have any comments, prayer points or ideas, please contact us.*



Rev Richard Quadrio chaired the meeting and addressed some challenging words to Minister Firth.



Peter Graham (Moderator, PCNSW), the Hon Verity Firth MP, Murray Norman (PY General Manager)

## Meet a teacher...



*Louise Gillman teaches SRE in 4 primary & infants schools in southern Sydney.*

The privilege and highlight of my week is to see God at work in the hearts, minds and lives of the many children in my Scripture classes as they sit wide-eyed, captivated by God's story, as big Bible truths are told, sung, revised and enjoyed. God is at work in the class teachers too as they sit 'working' at their desks. Many comment on how they enjoy the classes and how much they learn.

God has even shared His joy in seeing Him bring one of these teachers into His Kingdom as she testifies how He used Scripture teachers both at her child's school as well as at her own to minister in that family's life. How precious to join God as He works...Something we must grasp and grow while He allows us access into state schools.