



# Australian Association for Religious Education

## 2024 Year of CaRE Chaplains and Religious Educators

While our roots go back to the 1950s and 60s, the Australian Association for Religious Education will celebrate 50 years as a national association in 2024.

Rather than celebrate the Association, this has prompted us to celebrate those for whom the Association was formed to support. We are putting out a national call out to make 2024 the “Year of the CaRE” – Chaplains and Religious Educators. We seek your support in doing so.

It is a year to acknowledge, give thanks and celebrate the chaplains, the religious educators (with whatever title or focus) and their work.

In a world filled with division and conflict, genuine chaplaincy and authentic education in religion has the potential to nurture the best in the individual and in society. It has been our observation and experience that those who accept the call to - chaplaincy in loving and caring for the various needs; teaching about the religion in exploring our relationship the Creator, ourselves, each other and rest of creation; ministering to engage the young in the potential that such relationships offer; challenging and supporting those in the service of others in order to promote justice in this world - are people of great generosity, deep compassion and courage in responding to this call. They wish to help re-create the world as it should and could be. If allowed to flourish, their work will contribute to bring understanding, harmony and peace in the world.

The AARE has planned four foci for the year:

1. Advocacy for the work being done in this sphere by promoting the activities and works being provided.
2. Recognition for the CaREs and what they have done by providing an online platform for students and ex-students to express their appreciation and gratitude for a particular chaplain or educator.
3. Create commemorative badges that can be worn by chaplains and religious educators. Rather than have these professionally designed, we wish to run a student competition to do this. Prizes will be provided for winning designs in both primary and secondary categories.
4. Host celebratory dinners where chaplains and religious educators can gather, pray, affirm each other and share in the age-old custom of hospitality – a shared meal. Awards will also be conferred.

With all the challenges being faced by those who serve in these capacities, the AARE believes it is a good time to celebrate and support CaRE.

*Blessings & Joy*



*Chris Callus*

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