



# Australian Association for Religious Education

[www.aare.org.au](http://www.aare.org.au)

## VISION

The Australian Association for Religious Education (AARE) stands as the preeminent non-denominational, not-for-profit professional association dedicated to Chaplains and Educators engaged in the realm of religious education across primary and secondary educational institutions, encompassing Government, Catholic, and Independent schools. Additionally, the Association extends its reach to professionals from tertiary institutions within the Australian educational landscape.

## MISSION

The AARE is committed to achieving the following objectives:

1. Advocate for the recognition of Religious Education as an integral and valuable component within the broader educational landscape.
2. Serve as a representative body to support, advocate for, and promote the interests of chaplains and religious educators, fostering collaboration and understanding among them.
3. Facilitate continuous advancement and effective implementation of religious education and related disciplines within diverse educational settings, including schools, universities, and other educational institutions.

The AARE is a unifying force for good.

## WORKS

The AARE (WA) is committed to achieving its mission by:

1. Cultivating platforms for dialogue and knowledge-sharing among chaplains and religious educators.
2. Delivering professional development and sharing resources through various channels such as the website, conferences, seminars, networking, professional learning activities, partnerships, and other initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality of teaching and research in religious education.
3. Recognising and thanking chaplains and religious educators and celebrating their work at an annual State AARE Dinner.
4. Commemorating the service and contributions of chaplains and religious educators through the presentation of annual Awards of Meritorious Service, nominated by their peers or supervisors at the annual AARE Dinner.
5. Promoting the endeavours of individuals and organisations aligned with the Association's mission, including but not limited to events such as the Governor's Prayer Breakfast, Children's Ministry Network - Passing the Baton, YouthCARE, Council of Christians and Jews – Kristallnacht Commemoration, The Christian Service Learning Network, HATS Production, Did You Know Education, Youth Mission Team, Outreach & Church Ministries (OAC), Dialogue Australasia Network (DAN), Perth Together – Gather Education, Destiny Rescue, Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting – Tree of Hope, and Song & Dance Creative Family Ministries.
6. Establishing and maintaining a Religious Education Providers Registry for Government schools
7. Creating opportunities for chaplains and religious educators to actively participate in the direction and activities of the Association through involvement in the Annual General Meeting and serving on its Committee.
8. Providing contributions and representation to relevant government and educational authorities, such as representation on the School Curriculum and Standards Authority's Course Advisory Committee for Religion and Life.

## VALUES

Members of the AARE Board of Management and the annually elected AARE Committee are dedicated to advocating for the optimal interests of chaplains and religious educators. Their commitment involves actively supporting the advancement and implementation of religious education, guided by the principles of Service, Integrity, and Respect.

## HISTORY

After decades of informal discussions and deliberations by the Heads of several independent schools, the Australian Association for Religious Education had its beginnings at the first national conference of chaplains and teachers of religion in Canberra in September 1967.

Following that conference, which was arranged by the Headmasters' Conference (HMC), an Australian Committee for RE was formed to foster continuing dialogue between those involved in Religious Education. A small National Steering Committee was formed under the aegis of the HMC to guide the dialogue. The Committee operated out of Victoria. In some States, separate committees were set up to work in cooperation with the National Committee.

Following the Fifth Conference held in Canberra in 1974 a meeting of State delegates took place in Melbourne. That meeting resolved to change the name of the organisation to the Australian Association for Religious Education (AARE) and set up a National Committee which elected a National Executive. Branches were established in the various states and territories, including Western Australia.

The Association:

- approved its first formal Constitution at the 1984 meeting of the National Committee in Melbourne.
- was incorporated in Victoria as a national professional association and promulgated at the National Conference held in Perth in 1994.
- has held National Conferences in Victoria (Melbourne), ACT (Canberra), Western Australia (Perth), South Australia (Adelaide) and Queensland (Southport and Brisbane).
- has served educators from all states and territories and
- has grown to include religious educators from a variety of Christian denominations and from the Jewish and Islamic faiths.

While existing as a national association, the AARE encourages and facilitates the formation and continuance of State and Territory Branches of the Association. The WA Branch is a strong and vibrant part of the national scene.

Although the AARE is a professional association, the overwhelming majority, if not all, involved in these fields, are faith-filled people who generously volunteer their time, expertise and energy to make a positive difference in the lives of their students; for many, this is their vocation in life.

The AARE has traditionally been composed of Christian educators. While remaining in harmony with our origins and purpose, the Association has grown into a non-denominational professional association open to all who work in the fields of religious education, chaplaincy, service-learning etc, whether it be in Christian (Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Evangelical, Uniting Church, etc), Independent, Islamic, Jewish or Government schools. The AARE is a unifying force for good.

The Association has grown and evolved over the years in order to adapt to the changing the educational landscape of Australia. While honouring our Christian heritage and recognising that chaplaincy and most religious education within Australia is delivered within the Christian context, the Association welcomes religious educators of all religious faiths who seek to work in harmony with the Association's original purpose.

Over the years many members have found it an organisation that has supported them personally and professionally, while helping them to enhance their own ministries and educational work.