

# The Context In Which We Offer Religious Education

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 4pm - 6.15pm

Presented by Rev Dr John Dickson

Carey Baptist Grammar School- William Carey Chapel

349 Barkers Road, Kew



AARE members- \$55

Non-AARE members- \$70

## 1. Is Australia Post-Christian?

Most Australians believe in God, but only about half indicate any association with Christianity. Far fewer ever attend church. How do contemporary Australians think and feel about Christianity, and how might that influence the way we speak about faith in 'secular' times?

## 2. The Evils of the Church

The charge that 'religion poisons everything' is powerful and increasingly common. There is no denying the complicity of the church in some great human evils, in history and in recent times. However, has the Christian community been a unique contributor to the violence and hatred of the West? Or can it be argued, in fact, that Christ and his people have gifted the West some of its most treasured 'secular' ideals? (AITSL standards addressed: 2.1; 6.2; 7.4)



John Dickson's story is eclectic. Starting out as a professional singer-songwriter, he now works as an author, speaker, historian, pastor, and media presenter. He was the Founding Director of the Centre for Public Christianity (2007-17). He has published 15 books, two of which became television documentaries, with a third, *For the Love of God: How the Church is Better and Worse Than you Ever Imagined*, released in Australian cinemas in June 2018.

John teaches a course on the Historical Jesus at the University of Sydney, and researches the origins of Christianity in the Roman Empire. He is an Honorary Research Associate at the University of Sydney, and during 2017-19 he is a Visiting Academic in the Faculty of Classics at the University of Oxford.

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