

## Information for religious education teachers

### Introduction

These guidelines have been prepared to assist Religious Education Specialists determine whether they are required to register with the Teacher Registration Board of Western Australia (TRBWA) in compliance with the *Teacher Registration Act 2012* (the Act) when performing particular duties in a school.

Religious Education Specialists who are required to engage in ‘teaching activities’ will need to determine whether their duties require them to be registered with the TRBWA in order to carry out those ‘teaching activities’ lawfully.

Some employers require staff employed as Religious Education Specialists to be registered as a condition of employment. These guidelines do not seek to clarify the position of such Religious Education Specialists. If, as a requirement of employment, you are registered with the TRBWA, then you meet the requirements of the Act to carry out any teaching duties that may be required of you.

These guidelines aim to assist Religious Education Specialists who are not registered with the TRBWA to determine the need to apply for registration if required to engage in ‘teaching activities’.

### Guidelines

- *The Teacher Registration Act 2012* requires that everyone teaching in an educational venue in Western Australia to hold TRBWA registration. The requirement hinges on (1) the definition of teaching and (2) the list of educational venues.
- ‘Teaching’ is defined as undertaking duties in an educational venue that include either:
  - (a) the delivery of an educational program designed to implement a prescribed curriculum and the assessment of student participation in such an educational program; or
  - (b) the administration of any such educational program.
- If a person is responsible for designing and delivering a teaching program, and assessing and reporting on student learning in that program, and that program is part of a prescribed curriculum, then that person is ‘teaching’ according to the Act.
- The prescribed curriculums are:
  - (a) *Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia*, part of the national education and care services quality framework and referred to in the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2012 regulation 254(1)(a)
  - (b) the national school curriculum, known as the ‘Australian curriculum’, developed and administered under the *Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority Act 2008* section 6(a)
  - (c) the outline of curriculum and assessment in schools established by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority under the *School Curriculum and Standards Authority Act 1997* section 9(1)(a)
  - (d) a course developed, or caused to be developed, by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority under the *School Curriculum and Standards Authority Act 1997* section 9(1)(c)
  - (e) a course accredited by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority under the *School Curriculum and Standards Authority Act 1997* section 9(1)(d)

- (f) alternative curriculum frameworks published by ACARA on its Recognition Register
  - (g) a course registered as accredited on the State Register under the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* (Victoria) as being suitable for the purposes of a certificate in general education for adults
  - (h) the Advanced Placement Program, developed by the College Board (USA)
  - (i) the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme offered by the International Baccalaureate educational foundation.
- If a person substitutes for a teacher, in the absence of the teacher, during a period when students would normally be engaged with a program designed to implement the curriculum, then that person is 'teaching' according to the Act. For example, if a person's duties for the day are as relief teacher, then that person is 'teaching' as defined by the Act.
  - If a person delivers, or plans and delivers, a component of the school curriculum through agreement with the teacher, but is not responsible for student learning outcomes, then that person is not 'teaching' according to the Act. For example, if a person develops an individual learning plan for a student, in negotiation with the student's teacher, but the teacher maintains responsibility for the student's learning, that person is not 'teaching' as defined by the Act.
  - Where a person presents information or a lesson, as a guest presenter with expert knowledge, to a class as part of a planned program in which the teacher retains responsibility for the student's learning, that person is not 'teaching' as defined by the Act.
  - The 'educational venues' covered by the Act are currently each community kindergarten, government school and non-government school established or registered under the *School Education Act 1999*. Educational venues whose teachers must apply for registration by 6 June 2014 are child care centres, centre-based education and care centres and juvenile detention centres.

Example: If a Religious Education Specialist delivers to a group of students a sequence of talks on wellbeing as part of the classroom teacher's prepared program, the Religious Education Specialist is not 'teaching' as defined by the Act and is not required to have TRBWA registration.

Example: If a Religious Education Specialist delivers to a group of students a sequence of lessons on wellbeing as part of the regular school program where they have prepared the program and are responsible for its delivery and assessment, and the learning sequence is designed to meet some aspect of the prescribed curriculum in use at the school, then the Religious Education Specialist is 'teaching' as defined by the Act and is required to have TRBWA registration.

Example: If a Religious Education Specialist delivers to a group of students a sequence of lessons designed to enhance their knowledge of a particular religion or their faith in a particular religion, and the outcomes are not from a prescribed curriculum, then the Religious Education Specialist is not 'teaching' as defined by the Act and is not required to have TRBWA registration.

If you need clarification of the need for registration in any particular situation, please contact the TRBWA.

Teacher Registration Board of Western Australia  
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