



Humanist Society of Queensland Inc presents

SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE SCHOOLS™

Time for reform in Queensland?



IN 1910 EVERY OCCURRENCE OF THE WORD 'SECULAR' WAS DELETED FROM THE QUEENSLAND EDUCATION ACT OF 1875

5. In State schools and provisional schools secular instruction only shall be given and no teacher shall give any other than secular instruction in any State school building.

While the Education Acts of NSW, Victoria and the ACT retain clauses requiring only secular material to be taught in public schools, the critically important section above was removed from the Queensland Education Act in 1910 to enable the provision of Bible lessons by staff teachers as part of Christian Religious Instruction—an arrangement that has remained enshrined within Queensland education law to this day.

100 years on, the resulting lack of any secular safeguards within the Queensland Education Act legitimises the widespread inclusion within the K-12 state school curriculum of what Education Queensland's *Religious Education Advisory Committee*, REAC, describes as "creationist theory".

While not ever having been mentioned within the Queensland Education Act, chaplains were introduced in the 1980s to assist in the provision of legislated Christian Religious Instruction. Regardless of funding sources, this remains the primary role of chaplains in Queensland state schools. On this basis, the presence of religious chaplains in Queensland state schools beyond the statutory maximum of one hour per week could reasonably be questioned.

These circumstances—and the fact that across Queensland, existing laws and policies pertaining to the delivery of religious instruction are all too frequently ignored or flouted—mean that legislative reform must be addressed as a matter of urgency. In consideration of today's culturally-rich society comprising of many faiths and none—surely this is a reasonable proposition?

SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER 2012

5:30pm — 9:00pm

Meet & greet, showing of ['The Lord is Not On Trial Here Today'](#) documentary followed by discussion.



SUNDAY 14 OCTOBER 2012

9:00am — 4:30pm

PROF MARION MADDOX

Director - Centre for Research on Social Inclusion, Macquarie University, NSW. Author of *God Under Howard*.

DR CATHY BYRNE

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow - Macquarie University, NSW.

MR GREG PURCHES

Deputy General Secretary - Queensland Teachers' Union (QTU).

MR PETER GARRIGAN

President - Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO).

MR HUGH WILSON

National Director - Australian Secular Lobby (ASL)

MR PETER HARRISON

Council Member - New Zealand Association of Rationalists and Humanists (NZARH).

MR RON WILLIAMS

Australian Humanist of the Year 2012. Plaintiff Williams v. Commonwealth of Australia and Ors.

VENUE:

George Williams Hotel Conference Centre
317-325 George Street Brisbane

ENTRY:

\$45

PAYMENT:

<http://hsq.org.au> or direct deposit:
Humanist Society of Queensland Inc
BSB: 064-000 ACC: 10452935
Cash at door

RSVP & ENQUIRIES:

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