

Statement from Dawn Penney
CEO, ACCESS ministries

Tuesday 30 October 2018

ACCESS ministries acknowledges recent comments of support for the role of religious instruction in schools given by Victorian Opposition leader, Mr Matthew Guy.

ACCESS ministries is one of four accredited providers across numerous faiths currently operating under guidelines developed and overseen by the Victorian Department of Education and Training delivering Special Religious Instruction (SRI) in Victorian government primary schools.

Participation in SRI programs is entirely opt-in with programs only provided where parents of children choose to enrol their children in the program and where school principals agree to offer the program based on support from parents, children and the school community.

We presently have 132 instructors offering 60 programs with 1089 schoolchildren. The majority of these programs are offered during lunchtime and a few offered either before or after school.

Each SRI program is conducted with a member of the teaching staff present to act as a supervising teacher as required by departmental guidelines.

ACCESS ministries adheres to all guidelines and compliance measures set down by the State Government in provision of our SRI services.

We have the utmost respect for the privilege we have to serve children, families and school communities who choose to take part in our SRI program.

ENDS