

Monday, 28 September 2009



**Office of the Parliament of the World's Religions**

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Dear Principal,

We invite you to encourage teachers to participate in the upcoming Parliament of the World's Religions, being held 3<sup>rd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at the new Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre (MCEC), Southbank. As the world's largest interreligious gathering, the Parliament will be a major professional development opportunity for teachers in the Government, Catholic and Independent sectors.

Whether you are involved in educating students in values, world religions or interreligious/intercultural studies there will be sessions of specific benefit to teachers at all levels of the educational curriculum: primary, secondary (lower and upper), and tertiary. Senior secondary school (high school) students and university students will find the experience of direct value to their studies.

While there are sessions relevant to education on every day of the 2009 Parliament, Monday 7 December 2009 is particularly devoted to educational issues, with a number of targeted specialised programs, including:

- Convening Education Session: Schooling, Young People and Social Inclusion introduced by The Hon Bronwyn Pike MP, the Victorian Minister for Education
- Teaching Spirituality to Primary, Elementary School Children
- Global and Interreligious Education through Peer-to-Peer and Online Learning in Australian and USA Schools
- Interfaith Education in Religious Schools
- Religion in Government and Public Sector Schools
- Talking Faiths: Your story, my story and our story, across schools and the worldwide web

The day will culminate in the evening Youth Plenary. Over seven days, delegates can choose from over 450 activities, including daily morning observances of many traditions, intrareligious and interreligious programs, models of engagement with global problems (climate change, global poverty etc), symposia, performances, open space dialogue and exhibits.

**How much will it cost?**

We have special **one day group registration** category for School Groups (only up to Secondary School age) allowing teachers to register at \$110 and students at \$10 per person only. This registration category is restricted to those with limited access to external funding and applies **ONLY** to teachers and school groups for one day. It entitles a teacher and group of maximum 20 students to attend all sessions on the day for which they register.

To find out more please call 03 8622 4809 or email [info@parliamentofreligions2009.org](mailto:info@parliamentofreligions2009.org) and request a special School Group registration code.

If you or your students are planning to attend more than one day you must register for 3 and 7 days. You can register in the full fee paying category or for 1, 3 or 7 days or in the Student and Children Concession category (ID required) for 7 days. More information is available online or from our Delegate Services on 1300 799 691. The quality of the program over the seven days is such that we would strongly encourage registration for greater than one day.

Education in interreligious affairs is a key issue in social cohesion and global poverty, and in preparing students for a globalizing world. For example, the recent Victorian education department's policy statement on "education for a global and multicultural citizenship" and its VELS framework is directly relevant.

### Important Dates

20 <sup>th</sup> November	Online Registrations Close
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Onsite Registration and Opening Ceremony
4 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Program Sessions (8am – 9pm)

### Important Links

Official Website: <http://www.parliamentofreligions.org>  
What is the Parliament: <http://www.parliamentofreligions.org/index.cfm?n=8&sn=12>  
Program Daily Schedule: <http://www.parliamentofreligions.org/index.cfm?n=7&sn=9>  
Education Program Section: <http://www.parliamentofreligions.org/index.cfm?n=7&sn=31>  
Youth Program: <http://www.parliamentofreligions.org/index.cfm?n=7&sn=5>

We look forward to seeing you in at the 2009 Parliament in Melbourne.

Kind regards,



Dr Joseph Prabhu Chair,  
CPWR Program Committee



Prof. Desmond Cahill,  
Chair, Melbourne Program Committee