

MEDIA RELEASE

6:45pm, 22 March 2020

START

MULTI-FAITHS PEAK BODY ANNOUNCES THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION FROM QUEENSLAND STATE SCHOOLS

The Multi-Faiths Peak Body for Religious Instruction (RI) in Queensland state schools has strongly recommended to its Instructors the immediate suspension of Religious Instruction from state schools until further notice.

Venerable Tseten, Co-Chair of the Multi-Faiths RI Peak Body and President of Buddhist Education in State Schools states, "The safety and wellbeing of students, parents and the broader school community is always the first the priority of the providers of RI in Queensland state schools. We have therefore decided that it is in the best interests of everyone that our approximately 3,500 volunteer Instructors temporarily suspend the delivery of RI from the 750 state schools where RI is on offer during the coronavirus pandemic".

Rev David Baker, Co-Chair of the Multi-Faiths Peak Body and Moderator of the Uniting Church Queensland Synod states, "The majority of Queensland primary schools welcome the positive role that RI can play in school communities, especially at a time such as now. However, the providers of RI believe that it is in the best interests of everyone that RI is temporarily suspended. We look forward to supporting parents and local schools by making RI available again, when it is safe to do so."

Every endeavour will be made to urgently communicate this important information to all providers of RI throughout the state.

END

Media enquiries can be directed to Rev David Baker, Co-Chair of the Multi-Faiths RI Peak Body Qld through James O'Callaghan 0437 368 744 James.OCallaghan@ucaqld.com.au