MEMORANDUM

TO: Diocesan Directors
CC: EDPOL
Paul Worthington CCRESS

ATTENTION: Heads of Religious Education

FROM: Ian Baker, Director – Education Policy & Programs

SUBJECT: 4th May Joint CEC/CCRESS Forum; “Religious Education in Catholic and State Schools”: Update

On 3 February 2011 (Ref 12/11) I wrote advising of preliminary planning for the joint CEC/CCRESS “Religious Education in Catholic and State Schools Forum” which will be held 4 May 2011.

This memo is to update you on forum agenda issues for the purpose of assisting all CEOs, in collaboration with their local CCD, to identify suitable persons to attend the forum as members of a combined Diocesan group.

First, for your information, I can advise that Bishops Power, Brady and Walker will be attending the forum. Bishop Power will open the day’s proceedings in his capacity as the Bishop responsible for CCRESS.

Forum input will include:

- Key findings of the specially commissioned CEC research on “Teaching Practices in Religious Education” (across the setting of Catholic and Public schools).
- Reflections on this research by some key CEO, CCD and parent representatives.

Following this input participants will be involved, through a workshop process, in exploring a number of focus questions. These focus questions as currently drafted are:

1. Changing Learning theory and practice: implications of all RE practitioners?
2. Need for a common RE curriculum: what is the benefit?
3. Moving the agenda forward: desirability of a focused peak body?
4. Parish based coordination of RE across settings: what are the options?
5. Resourcing RE: provision, sharing and access options?
6. Professional development for all religious educators: provision sharing and access options?

In addition opportunities will arise to explore:

- The recently released NCEC document “A Position Paper on an Australian Framework for Religious Education”
- Implications of the State Government’s Ethics classes as an alternative to Special Religious Education in Public Schools.

The forum process will be led by Sr Jan Barnett rsj.

With the above advice in mind you are asked to review the Forum Invitation as issued by CEC on 4th February 2011 and then register your participants online at:


Also please note this is the website which will be used to post pre-Forum readings.

Country Dioceses are advised that CEC will meet the cost of participants travel to attend the forum including, for participants travelling from isolated locations, one night’s accommodation in Sydney. For advice on travel subsidy issues please contact me on (02) 9287 1520 or email any requests for travel subsidy to ian.baker@cecnsw.catholic.edu.au. All requests for Country Travel assistance need to be submitted by Friday 15 April 2011.

If you have any questions or advice concerning the forum please contact either myself or Rosalie Nott (rosalie.nott@cecnsw.catholic.edu.au)

Finally you are reminded that the outcome of the Forum will be a report for the NSW Bishops.

Yours sincerely

Ian Baker
Director – Education Policy and Programs