

# Media statement

23 January 2013

Gretchen Miller  
*Life Matters, Radio National, ABC radio*

## Creationism

*Can public school teachers legitimately, in any way, include creationism in the science curriculum? (as opposed to RI where it is a more logical fit).  
Is there room for discretion on the part of public school principals? Where can parents go if they are concerned about this – do they come to EQ or do they have to take it up with the school?  
I read about an EQ statistic (I think from 2010) that about 80 per cent of parents do not indicate a religion on their enrolment forms – could you confirm it for me?  
Is RI an 'opt in' or an 'opt out' scenario? My understanding is that it is officially 'opt in'... but in practice it has become 'opt out'. Could you confirm this for me?  
Finally, EQ's position on the teaching of creationism in any part of a state school's curriculum content – is it approved, tolerated, or forbidden?*

*The following may be attributed to Marg Pethiyagoda, Assistant Director-General,  
Education Queensland*

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### **Can public school teachers legitimately, in any way, include creationism in the science curriculum? (as opposed to RI where it is a more logical fit).**

No, Creationism cannot be taught as a scientific theory.

### **Is there room for discretion on the part of public school principals?**

No.

### **Where can parents go if they are concerned about this – do they come to EQ or do they have to take it up with the school?**

In the first instance, parents should discuss their concerns to their school principal.

If concerns cannot be resolved at a school level parents can contact the regional office.

The Department strongly encourages parents to communicate freely and openly about their child's education with their school.

### **I read about an EQ statistic (I think from 2010) that about 80% of parents do not indicate a religion on their enrolment forms - could you confirm it for me?**

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Department of  
**Education, Training  
and Employment**

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Departmental records of August 2012 enrolments show approximately 79% had this question left blank and almost 9% nominated “no religion” or a non-religion.

**Is RI and ‘opt in’ or an ‘opt out’ scenario? My understanding is that it is officially ‘opt in’...but in practice it has become ‘opt out’. Could you confirm this for me?**

Parents have a choice about whether or not their child participates in RI.

**Finally, EQ’s position on the teaching of creationism in any part of a state schools’ curriculum content – is it approved, tolerated or forbidden?**

Education Queensland follows the Australian Curriculum, which does not support the teaching of Creationism as a scientific theory; and does not recognise it as part of the curriculum.

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