

This article was downloaded by: [York University Libraries]

On: 20 November 2014, At: 08:13

Publisher: Routledge

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954 Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JH, UK



Religious Education: The official journal of the Religious Education Association

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/urea20>

Religious Education In Australia

Ernest James Stacy^a

^a Journalist, "The Register", Adelaide, South Australia

Published online: 10 Jul 2006.

To cite this article: Ernest James Stacy (1906) Religious Education In Australia, Religious Education: The official journal of the Religious Education Association, 1:5, 168-168, DOI: [10.1080/0034408060010503](https://doi.org/10.1080/0034408060010503)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0034408060010503>

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Taylor & Francis makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all the information (the "Content") contained in the publications on our platform. However, Taylor & Francis, our agents, and our licensors make no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy, completeness, or suitability for any purpose of the Content. Any opinions and views expressed in this publication are the opinions and views of the authors, and are not the views of or endorsed by Taylor & Francis. The accuracy of the Content should not be relied upon and should be independently verified with primary sources of information. Taylor and Francis shall not be liable for any losses, actions, claims, proceedings, demands, costs, expenses, damages, and other liabilities whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with, in relation to or arising out of the use of the Content.

This article may be used for research, teaching, and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, redistribution, reselling, loan, sub-licensing, systematic supply, or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden. Terms & Conditions of access and use can be found at <http://www.tandfonline.com/page/terms-and-conditions>

Religious Education In Australia

ERNEST JAMES STACY

Journalist, "The Register", Adelaide, South Australia

Happily the vexed question of education and religion, so far as the State school system of South Australia is concerned, appears to have been settled. Modifications there may be in the future, but there does not seem to be much probability of departure from the broad principle that the State should impart sound education without trenching upon dogmatic religious instruction. The signs are that on the one hand religious enthusiasts will increasingly realize that religious education, as commonly understood, is the peculiar privilege and function of the church and of the home, whilst educational theorists will admit that the conditions of Germany, which is so often instanced in this connection, are quite different from those existing in Australia. And yet it is unjust and incorrect to describe the secular education of South Australia as irreligious. The employment of such a term arises either from a narrow conception of what is religious, or ignorance of what is being done within our State schools.

Here in Australia education in the public schools is free, compulsory and secular, the only difference being that in some states a certain amount of Scripture is included in the lesson books. There is no dogmatic teaching however. Though attempts have been made from time to time to get away from what is rather inappropriately termed the "secular" nature of the system, there would not seem to be much hope of any alteration. It is quite a mistake however to suppose that our public school system is irreverent or ungodly.

Of course this means that upon the churches and Sunday schools, in co-operation with the homes of our people, is thrown the responsibility of giving definite religious teaching. We are catching a good deal of the best spirit which is abroad in America and Great Britain with regard to the conduct of our Sunday schools, and, speaking for this state, I can say that there has been a distinct revival of interest during the past few years. We are everywhere feeling that the key to the position is in the better training of teachers, and we are moving along these lines as rapidly as possible.