



MEDIA RELEASE

Synod of New South Wales and the ACT
Uniting Church in Australia

222 Pitt St, Sydney • PO Box A2178, Sydney South NSW 1235 • Website: nsw.uca.org.au
Phone: 02 8267 4308 • Fax 02 9267 4716 • email stephenw@nsw.uca.org.au

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Uniting Church welcomes report on ethics classes

The Uniting Church today welcomed news that the independent review of the trial of ethics classes in New South Wales schools has recommended the government adopt the model used in the trial.

Pilot ethics classes were conducted in ten New South Wales primary schools by the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales, in association with the St James Ethics Centre.

In its submission to the evaluation of the trial the Uniting Church said it supported the introduction of ethics classes for those who do not attend Special Religious Education.

It observed that the move to offer ethics to students was not an attempt to weaken religion or eliminate special religious education from schools.

In the church's [submission](#) to Dr Sue Knight at the University of South Australia, John Oldmeadow, Executive Director of the church's Board of Education, said, "Our support gives priority to the interests of all children, not just those with whom we share faith convictions."

"We are committed to both SRE and a meaningful complement for those students who are 'opted-out' of SRE."

The Moderator of the Uniting Church, the Rev. Niall Reid, said the church looked forward to reading the report and participating in public discussion about the development of the curriculum and implementation of ethics classes.