

The Fourth R: What is the place of religion in Australia's 'free, compulsory and secular' schools?



Speaker

Prof Marion Maddox

Date and Time

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1:30pm – 3:00pm

Venue

Bankstown Campus

Building 1, Room 1.117

RSVP

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Abstract

By 1880, all Australian colonies had passed legislation guaranteeing their children 'secular' education and ending all public funding to religious schools.

Today, fewer Australians attend church or identify with a religion. However, more than one-third of Australian students attend private schools, over 90% of which are Christian, and which receive ever-increasing government funding. Meanwhile, religious activities in public schools take numerous forms.

How should schools in multicultural, multifaith Australia handle the "Fourth R"?

Biography

Marion Maddox is a Professor of Politics and ARC Future Fellow at Macquarie University. Her books include *God Under Howard: The Rise of the Religious Right in Australian Politics* (2005) and *Taking God to School: The End of Australia's Egalitarian Education?* (2014).