

# Secularism Australia Conference

## Saturday 2 December 2023

Teachers Federation House, Surry Hills



Federation is proudly hosting the first **Secularism Australia Conference** on **Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2023**.

Pro-secular Australian organisations have joined together to sponsor this long overdue conference, featuring high-profile speakers and secular champions who've been working hard for many years to reclaim our country as a genuinely secular nation. We believe this conference will be an important step in the creation of a unified national voice articulating a vision for a future Australia that establishes a balance between freedom of religion, and freedom from religion.

**What do we mean when we talk about 'secularism'?** The separation of religion and state is the foundation of secularism. Secularism also seeks to protect the rights of religious believers and non-believers alike and to ensure that freedom of religion is always balanced by the right to be free from religion. Our society is rapidly changing, becoming more multicultural and diverse, and increasingly less religious. Yet, our government policies and institutions are failing to reflect this reality and to treat all Australians fairly, regardless of religious or non-religious beliefs. We believe there is a strong desire in the community for separation of church and state, and a need for Australia to embrace secularism in the spirit of a fair go so that government does not play favourites when it comes to religion.

### **Conference outline:**

At the conference, you will hear from inspirational pro-secular speakers as they share their visions for secularism in Australia, and meet the secular champions who are pushing for reform. Among the line-up sharing their vision for a truly secular Australia will be:

- Michael Kirby (former High Court Justice)
- Jane Caro (author/commentator)
- David Shoebridge (Senator)
- Luke Beck (constitutional law expert)
- Van Badham (writer)
- Leslie Cannold (philosopher)
- Chrys Stevenson (researcher)
- Ron Williams/ Alison Courtice/ Craig McPherson (secular education advocates)

The Conference will discuss topics including the history of secularism in Australia, the need for secularism in our country and the threats to secularism that we face today. Speakers will delve into a number of policy areas where secular reform is needed to ensure that our laws, governments and institutions better reflect modern Australia. Education will be a key focus of the conference with topics including: Religious instruction (SRE), the National Chaplaincy program and government funding to religious schools.

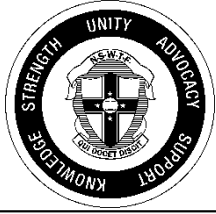
The Secularism Australia Conference is open to anyone who has an interest in building a truly secular Australia, irrespective of a person's ethnicity, background, religious belief, or absence of belief. **Lunch and refreshments will be provided** Further information can be found at: [Secularism Australia Conference](#).

### **Who can attend?**

You can attend as a:

- **Federation Funded Delegate** – One delegate from each Association, who is endorsed by the Association, will be funded by the Federation centrally.
- **Association Funded Delegate** – Associations are able to fund additional delegates. There is a formal process so please talk to your Association/Organiser for assistance with this.
- **Aboriginal Delegate** – There is funding for Aboriginal members to attend (10) – please contact the Aboriginal Coordinator at [nswtfae@nswtf.org.au](mailto:nswtfae@nswtf.org.au) for more information.
- **TAFE Delegate** – There is funding for TAFE members to attend (5) – please contact the Secretary of TAFE TA at [postschools@nswtf.org.au](mailto:postschools@nswtf.org.au) for more information.
- **OCAA Delegate** - There is funding for (5) OCCA members to attend.
- **Self-funded Delegate** – Members can also attend as 'self-funded' by indicating this on the registration form. Self-funded Delegates will not be eligible for reimbursement/allowances.

**Delegates that are funded by the Federation or the Association will need to have their registration form signed by the Association President or Secretary.**



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### Registration Form (NSWTF Members)

Forename:		Surname:	
Member No:	NESA No:	DoE Employee No:	
Mobile No:	Home No:	Work No:	
Workplace:		Association:	
Home Address:			Postcode:
What is your current teaching employment status?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Full time <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent part time <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary part time <input type="checkbox"/> Casual			
I identify as <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> LBOTE <input type="checkbox"/> Person with a disability			
<b>Preferred Email Address:</b>			
Dietary or other requirements ( <i>please specify</i> ):			
Emergency Contact Name & Number:			

### Approval & Delegate Status

All **Funded** delegates **must** be endorsed by their **Association President/Secretary**, unless stated otherwise.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Federation Funded</b> ( <i>ONE member nominated by their Association</i> ) Date: _____	Your <b>Association President</b> or <b>Secretary</b> must endorse your registration. Name: _____ Signature: _____ Association Position: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>*Association funded</b> ( <i>Your Association will cover costs for any Travel and/or Accommodation in order for you to attend</i> )	_____ <b>TA has carried a decision to cover the costs of travel/accommodation (as booked by NSWTF).</b> Name: _____ Signature: _____ Organiser: _____ Signature: _____ <i>*Association Secretary to send copy of motion to <a href="mailto:tut@nswtf.org.au">tut@nswtf.org.au</a> to confirm registration.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Aboriginal delegate</b>	<b>Must be endorsed by NSWTF Aboriginal Education Coordinator</b> Name: <b>Melissa Harding (Relieving)</b> Signature: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>TAFE funded delegate</b>	<b>Must be endorsed by TAFE TA Secretary, Adam Curlis.</b> Name: <b>Adam Curlis</b> Signature: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>OCAA funded delegate</b>	Your <b>Association President</b> or <b>Secretary</b> must endorse your registration. Name: _____ Signature: _____ Association Position: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Self-Funded Delegate</b>	( <i>No endorsement required as I am covering my own travel/accommodation costs</i> )

### Closing Date for Registrations:

Country Delegates **Friday 3 November 2023** & City Delegates **Friday 10 November 2023**

Please email your completed registration to [tut@nswtf.org.au](mailto:tut@nswtf.org.au).

Receipt of your registration form will be sent to the email address you have nominated.