



## **FIONA MARTIN MP**

Federal Member for Reid

Mr Surinder Jain  
E: [surinder@hinducouncil.com.au](mailto:surinder@hinducouncil.com.au)

Dear Mr Jain

Thank you for attending the community morning tea event in my office and for raising your concerns regarding funding for Hindu based schools across New South Wales.

In April, I wrote to the NSW Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning, the Hon Sarah Mitchell MP to raise these concerns.

I have now received a response from Minister Mitchell, which I have attached for your review.

Please feel free to share this letter to other members of the Indian community.

Should you require any further information or assistance please contact my office on (02) 9715 7444 or email [fiona.martin.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:fiona.martin.mp@aph.gov.au)

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Martin'.

**Dr Fiona Martin MP**  
Federal Member for Reid

24/6 /2021



## The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC

Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Dr F Martin MP  
Federal Member for Reid  
72 Burwood Road  
BURWOOD NSW 2134

RML21/1403

[Fiona.martin.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:Fiona.martin.mp@aph.gov.au)

Dear Dr Martin

Fiona

Thank you for your representations of 14 April 2021, on behalf of the local leaders of the Indian community in your electorate regarding the funding of Hindu based schools across NSW.

I have sought clarification and advice from the Department of Education on this matter and I am advised of the following.

The *Education Act 1990* (the Act) provides for the registration of non-government schools in NSW. The requirements for registration are determined by the Act.

The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) is responsible for assessing applications for non-government school registration and for monitoring compliance with the registration requirements. NESA is not a funding authority.

The process and requirements for registration are detailed in NESA's *Registered and Accredited Individual Non-government Schools (NSW) Manual*. A copy of the Manual is available on the NESA website at <https://rego.nesa.nsw.edu.au/>.

Under the Act, an application for the initial registration of a proposed new non-government school must be submitted to NESA by 31 March in the year prior to the proposed year for commencing operation. Applications are made via NESA's online system.

In NSW, a registered non-government school must provide the minimum curriculum required by the Act for primary, secondary or senior secondary education, as relevant. As long as the curriculum and all other registration requirements are being met, a school may provide additional learning, including religious education.

If the faith leaders require further information about the initial registration and set up an online account to make an application, they may contact Mr Stan Browne, Senior Inspector, School Registration and Accreditation, at NESA by telephone on 9367 8866 or email at [schoolrego@nesa.nsw.edu.au](mailto:schoolrego@nesa.nsw.edu.au).

The NSW Government is supportive of, and committed to, Special Religious Education in line with Section 32 of the Act, however, the provision of Special Religious Education is not government funded.

Should the local Indian community leaders require any further information about Special Religious Education, they are welcome to visit the Department's website at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/religion-and-ethics> or contact the Department's Special Religious Education and Special Education in Ethics Officer, by telephone on 7814 2353 or email at [srecontact@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:srecontact@det.nsw.edu.au).

Yours sincerely

  
**Sarah Mitchell MLC**  
12 May 2021