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## **Pastoral Care Policy**

**Approved by the EREA Board: 24 June 2014**

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**Rationale:** This policy is designed to set out the principles which underpin the approach to pastoral care for all students in EREA schools and Youth+ Flexible Learning Centres (FLCs).

**Policy Statement:** Pastoral care in EREA schools and FLCs should reflect the charism of Edmund Rice as articulated in the Charter.

**Principles:** While recognising the unique context of each EREA school and FLC and the policy environments in which they operate, all schools and FLCs are called to live out the ideals articulated in the four Touchstones of the Charter. With this in mind, the following principles should guide the formation and implementation of any pastoral care system:

- Liberating Education
  - A fundamental goal of any pastoral care process should be the development of personal responsibility in young people;
  - The pastoral care process should be educative and restorative;
- Gospel Spirituality
  - Teachers and school leaders should model compassion and forgiveness in their dealings with students;
- Inclusive Community
  - The dignity of each person needs to be respected at all times;
  - Pastoral care processes should emphasise the school's duty of care responsibilities for the common good and the safety and welfare of all members of the school community;
- Justice and Solidarity
  - The principle of natural justice should be at the heart of all interactions between members of the school community;
  - Any pastoral or behaviour management issue requiring staff intervention should be judged on its merits;

- Procedural fairness should be adhered to at all times.

**Applicable to:** All EREA Schools and Youth+ Flexible Learning Centres.

**Key Responsibilities:** The Executive Director has responsibility for the implementation of this policy and appropriate delegations to EREA School Principals and Youth+ Cluster Principals.

EREA School Principals and Youth+ Cluster Principals are responsible for the development of appropriate procedures to support the implementation of this policy.

**Effective From:** 24 June 2014

**Review:** Consideration will be given every 2 years to determine if this policy requires review earlier than 2018.

**Related Information:** EREA's Pastoral Care Position Statement on 'Natural Justice'

State-based School Registration requirements