

# Progressive Atheists Inc.

Est. 10 Jan 2010 Reg: A0054119U Member of AAI



## Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting | 26 July 2014

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Our next Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting will be held on Saturday 26 July 2014, 12 pm – 4 pm for lunch and discussion at Clover & Rye Café: 410 Bridge Road, Richmond, VIC. All who support our purpose are welcome.

### Progressive Atheists Purpose Statement:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/about-us/mission-purpose/>

### Melbourne Atheists MeetUp Group | Event Calendar

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Keep in touch with atheists around Melbourne via the Melbourne MeetUp:

<http://www.meetup.com/Melbourne-Atheists/events/calendar/>

### Membership Renewal Term 2015 | 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

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Progressive Atheists Membership is \$20 per annum.

### RENEW | Purchase Membership Renewal Online:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/products/membership/renewal-2/>

### JOIN US | Purchase New Membership Online:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/about-us/membership/application/>

### For other methods of renewal and joining see our website:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/about-us/membership/>

OR ASK the person who gave you this bulletin

### Email our Membership Officer:

[membership@progressiveatheists.org](mailto:membership@progressiveatheists.org)

### Progressive Atheists Inc. 'Proudly Atheist' T-shirts & Badges

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T-shirts ONLY \$15 for members!

Badges \$2.50 each ~ 2 designs / 3 colours

Order your t-shirt or badge on our website:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/products-for-sale/>

Sales Rep. Elida Radig: [sales@progressiveatheists.org](mailto:sales@progressiveatheists.org)

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*"Your participation is PA's future"*

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## July 2014

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## MEMBERSHIP

**Term 2015:** 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015  
Renew or Purchase New Membership Online

\*\*\* ONLY \$20 Annually \*\*\*

### Membership Enquires:

[membership@progressiveatheists.org](mailto:membership@progressiveatheists.org)

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## CONTACT

**President:** [president@progressiveatheists.org](mailto:president@progressiveatheists.org)

**Vice President** – Andrew: 0438 043 050

**Secretary:** [secretary@progressiveatheists.org](mailto:secretary@progressiveatheists.org)

**Website:** [progressiveatheists.org](http://progressiveatheists.org)

**Like us on Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/ProgressiveAtheistsInc](http://www.facebook.com/ProgressiveAtheistsInc)

**Follow us on Twitter:** [twitter.com/ProgAtheistsInc](http://twitter.com/ProgAtheistsInc)

# Progressive Atheist Inc. | Headlines

## **Campaign: STOP National School Chaplaincy Program**

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The High Court has for the second time handed down a decision against the School Chaplaincy Program. The funding of the NSCP is illegal. After the first decision was handed down in 2012, the then Labor government rushed through legislation to keep the program federally funded. The program has a history of rushed legislation.

In 2012 Senator Brandis warned: "The Commonwealth is clearly asking for another clobbering by the Court". Well thanks to the hard work of Ron Williams and his team, they did indeed get another clobbering.

The Progressive Atheists launched this most recent campaign on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 6 days before the High Court handed down its decision that the NSCP funding is illegal. The main aim of the campaign is to mobilise all concerned citizens into taking action. Let your local government state and territory leaders know that you don't support the continuation of the NSCP.

If some form of student support is found to be required in our public schools, then such a program would need to be secular in nature, non-discriminatory and provided by properly trained professionals suited to the requirements of students, and not based on a thinly veiled desire to Christianise public school children.

Just after the High Court decision on 19 June 2014, the federal government gifted \$37 million to chaplaincy providers Australia wide. This funding will cover the program until December 2014. There is speculation the government paid providers well in advance intentionally in anticipation of the High Court ruling.

Currently NSW Chaplaincy providers are operating without any protective legislation federally or state. Senator Louise Pratt has voiced grave concerns for student welfare under the NSCP. The next hurdle is going to be when the funding runs out in December and the federal government seek to continue to fund the program via grants to the states and territories.

You can read more about the the current campaign; the history of the NSCP; find out how to make a donation; see and sign petitions and; add your name in support of our campaign on our campaign page.

**Campaign Page:** <http://progressiveatheists.org/campaigns-projects/stop-national-school-chaplaincy-program/>

## **Attack on Secular Education: Special Religious Instruction / Education**

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In a letter to The Age on 25 June 2014, Marion Harper provides a well worded and reasoned response to Special Religious Instruction in our public schools.

### **Expose kids to all views**

*"Supporters of Christian-based religious classes in schools seem to miss the point that our constitution so cleverly articulates. "Free, compulsory and secular" is what our sensible forefathers proclaimed, quite rightly. Those who select a religious-based school have that choice, albeit one they should pay for."*

*"State schools that cater for Catholic, Protestant, Muslim and Jewish students and those whose parents have other views should provide a comparative religions course that teaches the history of religion and respect for all views. We are a multicultural society."*

<http://www.theage.com.au/comment/the-age-letters/egypt-trashes-pretence-of-sophistication-20140624-3ar7d.html>

### **Read more about Special Religious Instruction / Education:**

<http://progressiveatheists.org/campaigns-projects/religious-infiltration-in-australian-schools/>

## **See & Sign Petition: Free Mubarak Bala | Petition by Andy Hobson UK**

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Mubarak Bala has been beaten, drugged and confined to the Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano in Nigeria. This has been done because he renounced Islam and has openly declared himself to be an atheist.

His father, a politically powerful figure has declared atheism to be a mental illness and is holding Mubarak in a secure ward behind tight security.

### **See and sign this and many other petitions on our petition page:**

<http://progressiveatheists.org/take-action/petitions/>

The Progressive Atheists are very concerned about the persecution of atheists around the world. There are so many countries with laws specifically targeted at atheists. The Freedom of Thought Report is an annual survey on discrimination and persecution against non-religious people in countries around the world. The latest report is available free to download.

### **You can read more about The Freedom of Thought Report here:**

<http://freethoughtreport.com/>