

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*for immediate release: Monday 14 November 2011*

### **Unethical Behaviour over Ethics Classes**

The Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) once again calls upon the O'Farrell government to uphold its election commitment to the parents in NSW Public Schools by honouring the legislation to allow ethics classes to be held for students opting out of special religious education.

Commenting on the recent announcement by NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell, ACSSO President Peter Garrigan said, "The establishment of a committee to review ethic classes in NSW is just one step closer to their eventual removal from public schools and one step closer to the NSW Premier breaking his promise to the parents of NSW public school students."

"It would appear that Premier O'Farrell would happily do a deal with the Reverend Fred Nile in preference to maintaining his integrity with the people of NSW."

"ACSSO condemns the actions of the Reverend Fred Nile in holding the NSW Government to ransom in his attempt to overturn current legislation surrounding ethics classes," Mr Garrigan said.

"The parents and school communities of NSW Public Schools worked long and hard to have their voice heard. Their children are their first priority – meaningful engagement during the SRE time for all students is valued by them. It obviously is not by the NSW government."

For further comment:

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**Australian Council of State School Organisations**

<http://www.acsso.org.au>