Wendy Rowe trades as Wombat Education and has been organising student and teacher conferences from her home in rural New South Wales since 2007. Previously she lived in France for many years and worked in the financial world.

Wendy believes that all young people should be able to learn about other religions and to reflect on the ‘big questions’ in philosophy of religion and ethics. Wombat Education aims to help schools and teachers improve the standard of their offering in the broad areas of Philosophy, Ethics and Religious and Values Education.

By combining academic rigour with relevance to the modern world, Wombat conferences show how important it is that young people become particularly familiar with these themes. Wendy is committed to keeping prices for Wombat’s events low, to ensure that nobody is prevented from participating because of price. Further, all of the Wombat Education conferences provide schools and/or students with high-quality resources, either as a DVD or printed booklets.

VENUES
PERTH: Friday 1 August - Corpus Christi College
ADELAIDE: Monday 4 August - St. Aloysius College
HOBART: Tuesday 5 August - The Friends School
MELBOURNE: Wednesday 6 August - OLSH Bentleigh
SYDNEY: Thursday 7 August - SCEGGS Darlingtonhurst
BRISBANE: Friday 8 August - All Hallows College

TO BOOK...
Places at “Contemporary Issues in Focus: Teaching Bioethics Today” are available for $175 each which includes morning tea and a light lunch, course materials and resources. (See inside page under “Resources Include”) Registration 9.30am for a prompt 10.00am start and the day will conclude at 3pm.

Payment instructions are on the invoice which will be sent once the booking is made.

To make your booking please contact Wendy Rowe by e-mail mail@wombateducation.com or by telephone on 02 62 274 191 or 0429 078 714
ABN: 31 699 068 585
Suitable for teachers of Religion and Ethics, whether as part of Board of Studies courses or more generally, and also suitable for teachers of Science and Biology who take the broader implications of what they teach seriously, this PD event offers excellent value, combining a wealth of ideas and resources with an intellectually challenging environment for teachers, which respects their intelligence and professionalism.

In the past, some schools have used these events as an opportunity for several members of the same department to attend training together, consolidating relationships, building cross-curricular links and giving an excellent opportunity to develop new strategies over lunch. The events are also great for newly qualified teachers or non-specialist staff looking to improve their knowledge and classroom practice in the subject area.

This intensive one-day PD event will examine issues arising from modern medicine and will consider how to improve the teaching of major topics on all Studies of Religion specifications.

Sessions will focus on the challenges presented by genetic engineering, new reproductive technologies and end-of-life care, ensuring that teachers have a sound grasp of the facts behind the headlines and a good understanding of how leading thinkers respond to the issues. An additional focus will be how such topics can be introduced and explored by using relevant film clips drawn from both new releases and classic movies.

**RESOURCES INCLUDE**

An exclusive DVD of resources, including notes, PowerPoints and video-clips will be provided. In particular, new materials on teaching about assisted suicide and euthanasia will be provided for each delegate, incorporating a range of video interviews as well as an extensive, fully editable PowerPoint resource and notes.

A FREE copy of Charlotte Vardy’s new “Life and Death Coursebook” (PushMe Press, 2013, $18.95) will be given to each participating school along with a FREE copy of one volume of Candle Education’s new 5 DVD teaching set on Ethics. There will be an opportunity to buy or order additional resources on the day.

**SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE...**

**THE SANCITITY OF LIFE**

This major session will consider the significance of the principle of the sanctity of life and will seek to evaluate Professor Peter Singer’s challenge to it, considering his suggestion that it is speciessent based on fine words rather than solid argument. The session will go on to explore the thinking of Professor Julian Savulescu in relation to the possibility of human enhancement by Genetic or other means and in relation to the ethics of managing pandemics. Clips of favourite films such as “The Island” and “I Robot” as well as recent releases such as “Twilight” and “Her” will be used, providing ideas of how to introduce this topic in the classroom. The session will conclude with an opportunity to discuss the issues raised as a group.

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

Many discussions in Ethics today refer to “Human Rights” in one way or another – however people are rarely clear about what they mean by this or on what basis these rights are being claimed. This short session will consider the origins of Human Rights and the different approaches that have always and still do exist to understanding and applying them, using questions in Bioethics as working examples. At the end of the session consideration will be given to a different approach, inspired by Virtue Ethics, which might offer a practical alternative in many discussions which have stalled over Human Rights. Clips from films ranging from “The Reader” to “First Knight” will be used, showing how complex concepts can be broken down for discussion with students.

**LATEST CHALLENGES FROM GENETICS AND FERTILITY TREATMENT**

This session will explore the ethical implications of recent breakthroughs in Genetic Therapies and Fertility Treatments. Should children with three genetic parents be created? Do the ends ever outweigh the means? Should we take advantage of therapies which promise the removal of genetic defects of different types? Might this even be a moral duty? Central questions will be identified and explored, ensuring that teachers stay abreast of the facts behind the headlines and are in the best position to help students form reasoned responses to questions about these issues. Teachings from different Christian Churches and from other Religious groups will be compared and discussed and clips from films from the classic Gattaca to the recent Man of Steel and Elysium will be used to open up the issues and provide practical teaching ideas.

**THE ASSISTED DYING DEBATE**

This session will consider developments in the debate over assisted dying. Changes in the law in countries such as Belgium have been front-page news all over the world, with advances in the care of neonates, the very elderly, paraplegics and the terminally ill adding to the pressure to legalise some form of Physician Assisted Suicide. This session will unpack and evaluate arguments used on both sides of the debate, helping teachers to appreciate the complexity of the issues and why euthanasia continues to provoke impassioned debate. Is the fact that we are considering legalising the intentional killing of vulnerable people evidence of a widespread “culture of death”, of the dominance of Relativism and Postmodernism such as Pope John Paul II warned about in his 1998 Fides at Ratio – or is refusing people in agony the only possible release on ideological grounds cruel and inhumane? Video clips from the Oscar winning 12 Years a Slave, Awakenings and The English Patient will make the debate come alive! An extensive editable PowerPoint resource, including a video-interview with Baroness Mary Warnock, will be provided on the DVD.

**COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS**

Most courses invite students to compare and contrast a utilitarian approach to bioethics, which sees a good decision as one which maximises happiness, with a rights-based approach which sees the individual and their autonomy as inviolable, even when their interests conflict with the majority interests. This session will consider how a utilitarian, consequentialist approach is being used within bioethics today as the basis for QALYS calculations as well as weighing up the possible implications of such an approach for minorities and vulnerable people. The reality of the economic and demographic situations which have led to QALYS being adopted by fund managers and insurers across the world will be explored. The session will conclude with an opportunity to debate a related motion as a group. (QALYS – Quality Adjusted Life Year)