

# Fact Sheet

## National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Programs



### National School Chaplaincy Program 2015 - 2018 and Queensland Government's Student Welfare Program 2016-2018

#### What are the National School Chaplaincy and School Welfare Programs?

The National School Chaplaincy and School Welfare Programs provide funding for the provision of chaplaincy or school welfare worker (SWW) services in schools to support the emotional wellbeing of students by providing pastoral care services.

Pastoral care is the practice of looking after the personal needs of students through the provision of general spiritual and personal advice.

Participation by schools and students is voluntary. Chaplains and SWWs may be of any faith, are not permitted to proselytize, must comply with State laws and policies in relation to child protection matters and must respect, accept and be sensitive to other people's views, values and beliefs.

#### What is a chaplain?

A chaplain is an individual who:

1. is recognised by the school community and the appropriate governing authority for the school as having the skills and experience to deliver school chaplaincy to the school community;
2. is recognised through formal ordination, commissioning, recognised religious qualifications or endorsement by a recognised or accepted religious institution; and
3. meets the National School Chaplaincy Program's minimum qualification requirements.

The minimum qualification requirements for a chaplain are either a Certificate IV in Youth Work, or a Certificate IV in Pastoral Care or an equivalent qualification. This Certificate or equivalent qualification must include competencies in 'mental health' and 'making appropriate referrals'.

#### What is a student welfare worker?

A student welfare worker is an individual who:

1. is recognised by the school community and the appropriate governing authority for the school as having the skills and experience to deliver student welfare services to the school community; and
2. meets the minimum qualification requirements

The minimum qualification requirements for a SWW are either a Certificate IV in youth work, or a Certificate IV in Pastoral care or an equivalent qualification. SWWs may be 'working towards' the above qualifications. This certificate or equivalent qualification must include two units of competency in 'making appropriate referrals', 'mental health', 'working with young people' or 'cultural awareness and support'.

#### What does the National School Chaplaincy Program mean for Catholic education?

QCEC supports the objectives of the National School Chaplaincy and School Welfare Programs. QCEC believes the form of ministry provided needs to be broadly defined and recognises that Australians care for each other, not just in times of crisis, but in the everyday struggles of life, particularly for youth.

#### Links

Australian Government: [National Schools Chaplaincy Program](#)