

# FACT SHEET

## National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP)

### What is the National School Chaplaincy Program?

The NSCP is funded by the Commonwealth Government and aims to assist school communities to provide pastoral care and general spiritual, social and emotional comfort to all students, irrespective of their faith or beliefs. This can include support and guidance about ethics, values, relationships and spiritual issues; the provision of student welfare; and enhancing engagement with the broader community.

### What is meant by the term Chaplain?

"Chaplain" means an individual who:

- 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; and
- is recognised through formal ordination, commissioning, recognised religious qualifications or endorsement by a recognised or accepted religious institution; and
- meets the National School Chaplaincy Program's Minimum Qualification Requirements; and
- holds a current and valid Blue Card.

### What are the requirements by Catholic school for a Chaplain?

Participating schools are required to provide evidence that appropriate processes are put in place and reviewed at a minimum of a 6 monthly basis to ensure that:

- i. participation by students is voluntary;
- ii. chaplains may be from any faith;
- iii. chaplains must not proselytise;
- iv. chaplains must respect, accept and be sensitive to other people's views, values and beliefs;
- v. chaplains must comply with Queensland laws and policies in relation to child protection matters.
- vi. chaplains must meet the Minimum Qualification Requirements which are:
  - a Certificate IV in youth work through the Australian Qualifications Framework nationally accredited Community Services Training Package; or
  - a Certificate IV in Pastoral Care; or
  - an equivalent qualification or higher qualification; and

this certificate or equivalent qualification must include competencies in mental health and making appropriate referrals.

As part of the [Project Agreement for the NSCP](#), NSCP funded chaplains are to complete a three hour [online professional learning package](#) aimed at responding to and preventing cyberbullying. The online professional learning package, developed and delivered by the Office of the eSafety Commissioner, will be available free of charge to NSCP chaplains commencing in July 2019, for a period of 18 months.

If a complaint needs to be made about a chaplain, please follow the [complaints process](#) outlined by QCEC.