

FACT SHEET

Student Welfare Worker Program (SWWP)

What is the Student Welfare Worker Program?

The SWWP is funded by the Queensland State Government and aims to assist school communities to provide 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 Student Welfare Worker (SWW)?

"Student Welfare Worker" 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
- meets the Minimum Qualification Requirements; and
- holds a current and valid Blue Card.

What are the requirements by Catholic schools for a Student Welfare Worker?

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. SWWs may be from any faith;
- iii. SWW must not proselytise;
- iv. SWWs must respect, accept and be sensitive to other people's views, values and beliefs;
- v. SWWs must comply with Queensland laws and policies in relation to child protection matters.
- vi. SWWs must meet the Minimum Qualification Requirements which are:
 - a Certificate IV in youth work;
 - a Certificate IV in Pastoral Care; or
 - an equivalent qualification or higher qualification.

Note: 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'.

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