National Schools Chaplaincy and Schools Welfare Program

**Overview**

The Chaplains in the school seek to provide pastoral care to the staff, students, parents and any stakeholders in the school as per the guidelines available at <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/NSCSWP/Documents/NSCSWP_Guidelines.pdf>. The chaplains fall under the authority of the Principal and are part of the welfare program of the School. If a principal feels that a student should talk to the chaplain the principal will refer the student to the chaplain. If a person would like to arrange a meeting with a chaplain they can either arrange it in person with the appropriate chaplain or call the school secretary and a return call to make an appointment.

**Opt in Arrangements**

The Chaplaincy Program is an opt in program. Opt in means that if a student or interested person requires the chaplain, they need to approach the chaplain and initiate the meeting. The chaplains will not initiate uninvited conversations on spiritual matters while performing the role of chaplain in the schools. In this regard, it is entirely voluntary if a student wants to access a chaplain. If a parent / guardian of a student wish that their child not has any contact with a chaplain they will need to write a note to the school principal requesting this.

The Chaplains are permitted to teach scripture and run other religious groups but this involvement does not constitute the chaplaincy program. For example, school scripture is not part of the chaplaincy program and is not funded by it nor is it constrained by the same requirements of the chaplaincy program.

**Complaints**

If a student or parent/guardian has any concerns regarding the delivery of the chaplaincy program they can at first instance arrange an appointment with the chaplain concerned. If they feel that the appointment has left the issue unresolved they can meet with the principal and discuss the issue with them. The principal will discuss suitable resolutions with the funding provider. It is always appropriate for someone to request a support person if they desire it.

**Acknowledgement**

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