



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

NATIONAL SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

About the National School Chaplaincy Association

The members of the National School Chaplains Association represent 87% of school chaplains in State Schools.

State School Chaplaincy commenced in Australia over 50 years ago with the support of churches and the community and is now present in 40% of schools throughout the country.

Recommendation: \$300 Million from 2012 to 2014

Affirm funding for over 2500 schools throughout the country

Propose that 1000 additional schools be offered chaplaincy funding

Create Incentives to support chaplaincy in Regional Australia

What do School Principals Say

Independent research conducted by Edith Cowan University showed that there was a very high level of satisfaction in schools with the services provided by school chaplains – 98% of respondent school principals expressed a desire for the program to continue.

Australian Government Funding

Funding of School Chaplaincy was largely and continues to be a community driven initiative. Recognising the tremendous contribution of School Chaplains, in 2006, School Chaplaincy funding was boosted through the Federal Government's \$165million, 3 year funding initiative through the National School Chaplaincy Program. The program was further affirmed by the Federal Government by the extension of funding till the end of 2011.

What do the recommendations mean?

- ***Affirm funding for over 2500 schools throughout the country***

Many hundreds of thousands of students and families in school communities have benefited from the services of school chaplains, and we think it is vital for them that the National School Chaplaincy Program is continued. The continuation of this, however, needs to reflect the real costs associated with providing school chaplains and by installing a funding model that recognises this, the NSCP will be stabilised and secured for the future.

- ***Propose that 1000 additional schools be offered chaplaincy funding***

Many schools missed out on chaplaincy funding when the Program was first announced. Further, when the extension of the Program was made, no provision was made to offer funding to new applicants. Access to new funding should be made available to schools with special attention given in selection criteria to schools in low Socio-Economic areas and regional areas.

- ***Create Incentives to support chaplaincy in Regional Australia***

To facilitate the retention and extension of school chaplaincy services in regional areas, special financial incentives should be made through the funding model to recognise both the higher costs associated with living in regional areas as well as the difficulty in recruiting suitable people to live in regional areas.

Prepared by:

The National School Chaplaincy Association.

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