

National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program

Aims of the Service

The National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program provide funding to schools to access the services of a school chaplain or student welfare worker.

This program aims to help school communities and support the spiritual, social and emotional wellbeing of their students.

Overview

Our chaplain at Christian Brothers College oversees the spiritual, social and emotional wellbeing of our students through their active involvement in school life, community development and learning. They are involved in rich authentic learning experiences such as “Breakfast Club”, “Social Action Group”, “Red Cross Blood Donation Programme” and “Year Level Retreats” as a means of personal development of the hearts, minds and souls of our students.

Equally important within the role has been the Chaplain’s ability to make themselves available and journey with the students and their families through life’s joys and difficulties, providing appropriate counselling and referral to those in need or at risk.

The voluntary nature

The participation in the Program is voluntary and the college has determined the role of the chaplain. The chaplain is actively involved in retreats, school camps, liturgies and assemblies. ,

Links into other school support

Supportive to our chaplaincy role has been the development and maintenance of positive working relationships with the leadership team, staff and interagency partnership as a means of value adding and extending the roles beyond the school gates and into the wider community and in doing so building a level of sustainability.

Funding of the chaplain program

The Chaplaincy Program is funded solely to support the role of the chaplain. The chaplain works in collaboration with our counsellors and faith formation team to support activities within the college that develops our student’s spiritual, social and emotional wellbeing. The role involves supporting targeted groups and to advocate for these students and their families ensuring as a community we place into action, inclusivity and affirmative action where necessary.

Involvement in the program

No specific parental/guardian consent needed for school chaplains/student to provide any faith based/religious services, in addition to current school arrangements, is required in religious schools as parental/guardian consent to the provision of religious services is understood to have occurred in the parent/guardians’ decision to enrol their child in a religious school. All other chaplaincy/student welfare services and

activities would require prior consent as outlined above or as per existing state/territory or other education system or individual school guidelines or policies.

Complaints

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) is committed to providing the best service possible to all stakeholders and the Australian community. This includes a commitment to managing complaints made by participants, funding recipients, members of school communities and the general public about the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program (NSCSWP).

It is the right of the community to give positive and negative feedback and to have any complaints dealt with fairly, reasonably, impartially and confidentially. Complaints are an important source of information and feedback and are a valuable element in understanding the community's views of and experience with the NSCSWP.

Community Consultation

The College community are continually consulted to ensure the program enhances and contributes to the social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of the community. This includes:

- Newsletter articles
- Visual Essays and Presentations
- Parental surveys on the success of our chaplaincy program
- Support of the College Board

Acknowledgement of the Program

Christian Brothers College continues to implement and review community support of the "Chaplaincy Program" through the establishment:

- A steering committee representing stakeholders that can provide a point of collaborative planning and ongoing review.
- Continue to provide community development opportunities that promote authentic learning experiences and the active participation of students, staff, families and wider community.
- Continue to inform and share the journey of the "Chaplaincy Program" both formally and informally.
- Ensure Pastoral Care and line management is clearly defined and practiced so as the Chaplain is supported and developed in their role within the community –especially as it relates to the new standards.