Why Choose a Chaplain?
The unique benefits to a school community
SU QLD Chaplaincy

SU QLD School Chaplaincy is an effective, community-based program that has built a solid reputation in Queensland over the past 25 years, adding a unique dimension to the student support team in hundreds of schools. The benefits of SU QLD School Chaplaincy include:

- **Tried and tested.** SU QLD is an approved Chaplaincy provider who has worked in Queensland schools for many years. We enjoy a very healthy relationship with Education Queensland and DEEWR and have an established network of Field and Central Office Staff who provide strong support for our 500 Chaplains across the State.

- **Chaplains help schools offer holistic care.** Chaplains complement the care offered by other professionals in the school by providing intentional pastoral support and serving the spiritual needs of those students who voluntarily seek this option.

- **Full Administrative Support.** SU QLD recruits, trains and manages all aspects of a chaplain’s employment.

- **Charity Status.** SU QLD provides tax deductibility for the donations required to increase the chaplain’s time in your school, as well as salary packaging benefits for chaplains, ensuring schools get more value for money.

- **Equipped Chaplains.** SU QLD provides chaplains who meet all Government minimum education qualifications. SU QLD Chaplains undertake a comprehensive induction program as well as meeting ongoing training and professional development requirements.

- **SU QLD School Chaplains provide a gateway to the local community – welfare agencies, service clubs, churches and other community groups.** Chaplains promote and facilitate the engagement of the wider community with the school which often leads to volunteers serving the school through activities such as breakfast clubs, mentoring programs and other support programs.

- **Chaplains are backed by Local Chaplaincy Committees.** LCCs play a vital role building grassroots connections between the community and your school, as well as raising much needed additional funds.

If you would like any more information regarding the transition to the NSCPWP and how SU QLD can assist your school, please don’t hesitate to contact the SU QLD Service Centre on 3112 6400.
The Distinguishing Features of a School Chaplain

- Chaplains help schools offer holistic care. They are uniquely trained to serve the spiritual needs of those students who voluntarily choose this option.
- Chaplains offer spiritual and emotional support for all students regardless of faith.
- Chaplains complement the other “carers” in the school – counsellors, social workers, guidance officers, psychologists and nurses.
- Chaplains offer support on a more informal basis – they are accessible, not part of the authority structure and there is no stigma attached to seeing the Chaplain.
- Chaplains have access to a wide range of community support including welfare agencies, churches and Service clubs.

What is the Spiritual Support provided by Chaplains?

Chaplains provide general spiritual, social and emotional comfort to all students. This may involve:
- Facilitating conversations and activities where students can discuss their own thoughts, beliefs and world views.
- Providing resources for students to investigate for themselves the various religions and world views.
- Providing support for students working through ethical decisions.
- Networking with a range of local religious and non-religious organisations that can provide young people with spiritual support beyond the school setting.
- Running voluntary activities within the school supporting student’s spiritual development.
- Performing spiritual and/or religious rites on behalf of the school community, as appropriate, e.g. Memorial services, Anzac Day.

NB. Participation in the above activities is subject to approval from the Principal, consent from parents and voluntary participation by students.
Chaplains are in the prevention and support business: they help students find a better way to deal with their worlds.

Smashing the Myths
- The Chaplaincy role in government schools does not include teaching religious education. This is the distinguishing feature from private school Chaplaincy models.
- Chaplains are not permitted to evangelise or proselytise – they do not impose their views. Every member of school staff operates within guidelines and boundaries prescribing how personal views or beliefs are able to be expressed in a professional setting – and Chaplains are no different.
- Chaplains do not act as Counsellors – under the direction of the Principal they refer more complex cases on to the appropriate professionals.
- Chaplains are one of the most highly monitored positions within the school, with several levels of accountability (Principal, SU QLD, Local Chaplaincy Committee).

What are their qualifications?
- SU QLD’s minimum qualification for School Chaplains is a diploma of Youth Work or equivalent.
- SU QLD Chaplains have regular professional development.
- It is a requirement of SU QLD that every Chaplain has professional supervision.

Is pastoral care just counselling by another name?
- Pastoral care is an established and understood term in the caring professions. This is not a religious term.
- Pastoral care involves listening, showing empathy, and providing practical care.
- Pastoral care is always of value, whether the issue is serious or minor in nature.
- Often pastoral care is all the support a student needs, but where the need is greater, under the direction of the Principal, Chaplains refer students to other appropriate care providers and continue to provide pastoral care.

Why have people of faith involved in public schools?
- The 2008 Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians stated that, “Schools play a vital role in promoting the intellectual, physical, social, emotional, moral, spiritual and aesthetic development and well being of young Australians...” School Chaplains play a role in helping schools offer this holistic development of students.
- The church has always been involved in activities that relate to caring for people – they run hospitals, they’re involved in providing social welfare and aged care, and in School Chaplaincy they are there to care for our young people.
- The Chaplain’s faith motivates them to care for students – especially those doing it tough.
- Many areas of society have Chaplains, e.g. emergency services, the defence services, hospitals, professional sporting teams.
Questions about School Chaplaincy?

The SU QLD Service Centre provides a “one-stop shop” for all Chaplaincy-related support queries. School Principals and LCC members can submit queries by phone or email to SU QLD Service Advisors. These queries are referred to the relevant SU QLD staff for a response within 2 working days.

Phone: 1300 478 753
Email: servicecentre@suqld.org.au

How is SU QLD School Chaplaincy funded?

Funding for School Chaplaincy comes from a variety of sources, including local fundraising, donations, churches, as well as grants from the Federal and State Governments. Fundraising for School Chaplaincy is a Local Chaplaincy Committee responsibility.

National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Programme
Funding for School Chaplaincy is provided by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations under the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Programme.
About SU QLD

SU QLD is an interdenominational, Christian organisation partnering with schools and local communities to support young people in Queensland State schools.

SU QLD has worked with young people in Queensland State schools for over 80 years. Since SU QLD first employed a School Chaplain in 1990, Chaplaincy has grown to become an integral part of school communities.

With over 500 Chaplains working in more than 600 schools across the state, SU QLD is the premier provider of Chaplaincy Services in Queensland State schools.

Endorsed by Education Queensland

SU QLD is officially endorsed by Education Queensland as an employing authority for State School Chaplains. Since SU QLD first employed a School Chaplain in 1990, the strong professional relationship that has been fostered with Education Queensland has assisted us to consistently meet the expectations and standards required of a provider of School Chaplaincy Services.

Schools overwhelmingly approve School Chaplaincy

A 2009 national study* into the effectiveness of Chaplaincy in government schools found that:

- 98% of School Principals surveyed said that Chaplaincy was making a major contribution to school morale; it was proactive, unique, effective and important.
- 92% of School Principals surveyed thought that it was highly important to continue to have a Chaplain serving in their school.
- 73% of students surveyed believed their Chaplain was highly important in the school.

*The Effectiveness of Chaplaincy by Dr Philip Hughes, Edith Cowan University and Prof Margaret Sims, University of New England – Sept 2009.