



**school**  
**chaplains**  
**ACT**

**A frontline FORCE OF hope**

*“To be able to give them encouragement and positive reinforcement at such an important time in their development... is a real privilege.” — Primary School Chaplain*



# SCHOOL chaplaincy

School Chaplains provide spiritual and emotional support to school communities. They are in the prevention and support business: helping students find a better way to deal with issues ranging from family breakdown and loneliness to drug abuse, depression and suicide. They provide a listening ear and a caring presence for kids in crisis. They also provide support for staff and parents in school communities.

Chaplains play an invaluable role within a school community, working with other school staff to provide:

## **Social & emotional support**

Chaplains provide proactive pastoral care for students, staff and parents, helping to create a positive and safe school environment and looking out for those in need. They support students and the school community through bereavement, difficult family

and peer relationships, and other life difficulties that confront children and young people.

## **Spiritual support**

Chaplains provide an additional dimension to a school's care by supporting the spiritual needs of students, regardless of their faith or beliefs. For students who seek it, Chaplains can help them explore their worldview in relation to spirituality, values and ethics in a safe and respectful environment.

## **Community development**

Chaplains help to build strong links between the school and the wider community. By networking with school staff, local churches and community-based youth organisations, Chaplains help to mobilise the resources of the community to support students' needs.

## **Mentoring & role modelling**

Chaplains act as role models for students, assisting them to develop positive and supportive relationships. Chaplains may also implement mentoring programs, utilising resources and volunteers from the local community.

## **Supporting education**

Chaplains support the learning environment through classroom activities (under the direction of the teacher) and other structured programs in order to provide further social, emotional or spiritual support, particularly with students at risk of disengagement.

## **Extra-curricular activities**

Chaplains contribute to building a positive school environment by participating in general school activities, excursions, sports days, camps and other holiday activities.



*“Our Chaplain has acted as a best mate, a brother and a father figure... without him, I would not be where I am today!” — Student*

# WHAT MAKES chaplaincy SO EFFECTIVE?

School Chaplaincy is an effective, school based program that adds a unique dimension to the student support team within a school. SC ACT has crafted an excellent reputation in the ACT over many years, building on the previous work of SU ACT in schools.

With an experienced team of Chaplains, and a track record of working collaboratively with school staff to support students' wellbeing, School Chaplaincy has become an invaluable addition to many schools.

The unique dimensions of School Chaplaincy include:

## **Holistic care**

Chaplains offer faith-based holistic care in collaboration with other student support staff. Their unique brand of pastoral care and a relational approach make Chaplains an effective first response option.

## **Rich networks**

Chaplains provide a gateway to the local community — welfare agencies, churches, and other community

groups. Chaplains are well connected and are able to utilise the diverse resources of the local community to enhance support for students.

## **Chaplaincy Support Teams**

Each Chaplaincy Support Team (comprising parents, staff, local Church and community reps etc) works voluntarily to support the Chaplain and help build the Chaplaincy Service. With the help of our Chaplaincy Support Teams and the generosity of our community, more than 50% of SC ACT Chaplains are resourced to provide additional hours beyond the NSCSWP funding.

## **Local support**

SC ACT is managed by a full-time Director of Chaplaincy Services, offering excellent support, service and expertise to Chaplains and schools throughout the Territory.

## **Effective & sustainable**

SC ACT employs a local partnership model of Chaplaincy, working with schools and their communities to provide a service that meets the needs of the school. School Chaplaincy ACT is backed by SU QLD — the largest Chaplaincy employer in the industry.

## **High quality Chaplains**

It is the calibre of our people that makes the difference! Every school and community is different, and SC ACT is committed to finding the right Chaplain for the right school, and then resourcing them to work at the highest capacity.



A 2009 national study into the effectiveness of Chaplaincy in government schools found that 98 percent of school Principals surveyed said that the Chaplaincy Service was making a major contribution to school morale; it was 'proactive, unique, effective and important'.

**Source: 'The Effectiveness of Chaplaincy', Dr P Hughes & Prof M Sims, Sep 2009**



*"I can't imagine our school without Chaplains! They're an integral part of our school."*

— **High School Principal**

# A CAREER THAT makes a difference

If the opportunity to serve a school community, express your faith in action, and help make a difference in a young person's life appeals to you, apply to be a School Chaplain online at [sact.org.au/apply](https://sact.org.au/apply)

*"People who have had a strong connection with a strong positive role model during adolescence are much more resilient throughout their life."* — **N. Bahr & D. Pendergast**

**The Millennial Adolescent (ACER Press, 2007)**



*“This initiative is imperative for our school community to continue to thrive in good times and survive in rough times.” — Pastoral Care Coordinator*



# FREQUENTLY ASKED questions

## What qualifications do I need to be a Chaplain?

SC ACT requires that Chaplains hold a Diploma of Youth Work (or an equivalent or higher qualification in a relevant field).

In some circumstances this may be obtained during the first three years of appointment as a Chaplain. In such cases, it is a pre-requisite that Chaplains have completed a Certificate IV in Youth Work\* OR Pastoral Care\* OR an equivalent or higher qualification in a relevant field prior to employment.

For more detail regarding minimum qualifications, visit [scact.org.au/apply](https://scact.org.au/apply)

## What if I don't have these qualifications?

SC ACT provides nationally recognised qualifications in Youth Work — both the Certificate IV and Diploma of Youth Work\*\* through SU QLD.

There are also other options for achieving these requirements

through nationally recognised training and education providers. If electing to study with another training or education provider, it is recommended that you check the qualification against the eligibility requirements for Chaplaincy. If in doubt, please ask.

For more information, or to receive support in identifying an appropriate educational pathway, contact SU QLD Training at [training.suqld.org.au](https://training.suqld.org.au)

## What positions are available?

A current list of vacant positions is available at [scact.org.au/positions](https://scact.org.au/positions)

## How is Chaplaincy funded?

Most Chaplaincy roles are a combination of two sources of funding:

- Federal Government funding through the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program (NSCSWP)
- Donations from local individuals, businesses, groups and churches

It is an important element of the role of every SC ACT Chaplain to support the fundraising endeavours of the Chaplaincy Service.

## What are the salary and conditions for a Chaplain?

SC ACT Chaplains are employed on a permanent part-time basis with a six month probationary period. Most School Chaplaincy ACT services start at two days per week; however, additional funding and donations from within the community have enabled some Chaplaincy Services to grow and provide additional days of service.

Further details regarding salary and conditions can be found at [scact.org.au/apply](https://scact.org.au/apply)

\* Cert IV must include the units: CHCCS422A — Respond holistically to client issues and refer appropriately; and CHCMH301B — Work effectively in mental health.

\*\* Graduates from SU QLD Training qualifications will be well equipped for a wide range of youth work roles, however SU QLD is unable to make any guarantee of a Chaplaincy appointment upon completion.

# OUR support

## What does it mean to belong to the School Chaplaincy ACT network?

- Our Chaplains are highly qualified, surpassing Federal Government minimum qualification requirements
- Quality residential induction program for all new Chaplains
- Ongoing professional supervision
- Professional development program, including quarterly in-service days and an annual Chaplaincy Conference
- Local support when you need it most
- A service-orientated back office — as motivated to support students as you are

## Get in touch with School Chaplaincy ACT today!

If you would like any more information regarding School Chaplaincy, the NSCSWP, and how SC ACT can assist your school, please don't hesitate to contact:



### Di Priest

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