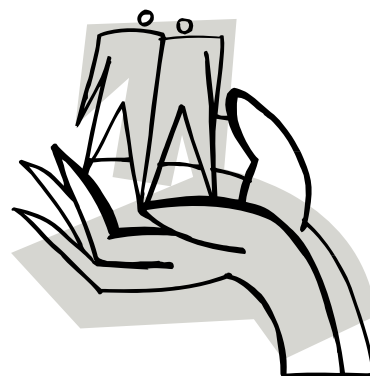


Chaplaincy



Overview

Chaplaincy provides a positive impact on the character, attitudes and values of young people. Chaplains are already invaluable in the majority of our State's District and Senior High Schools. The number of chaplains working in our Primary Schools is continuing to grow. This growth in the chaplaincy program, which commenced in 1982, can be attributed to the vital role our chaplains play in providing positive pastoral care in our schools.

The chaplain provides trusted guidance on spiritual, moral and ethical issues. The chaplain is someone staff, parents and students can turn to in time of need, and they offer practical support to students who are at risk. The chaplain does not duplicate the work of teachers or parents, but makes a distinctive contribution within the entire school community.

School Chaplaincy fosters the:

- Social
- Emotional
- Spiritual
- Mental
- And Physical development of students.

The chaplaincy service is administered by YouthCARE (incorporated as The Churches' Commission on Education or C.C.E.), which represents a wide diversity of Christian churches in the context of State School Education.

YouthCARE also partners with the community through local YouthCARE councils to establish, fund and support chaplaincy. This collaboration ensures that the **chaplain's work is directly linked to the Core Shared Values set out in the Curriculum Framework.**

The whole community benefits from the chaplaincy service as young people develop into caring citizens, proud of themselves and thoughtful of others.

Major-General Michael Jeffrey stated that '...if our children's spiritual dimension is nurtured through the three great traditional caring groups of family, school and church, it significantly increases the likelihood that young people will stay away from barriers such as excessive alcohol, drugs and crime, to become caring citizens. (The West Australian, Feb 9, 1995, p5). – Governor General.

The role of school chaplaincy

Chaplaincy is currently growing at a rate of 10 schools per year with significant growth in Primary Schools as schools recognise the integral role chaplains play in meeting the needs of children.

All chaplains aim to provide a sensitive Christian presence within a secular state school system. School chaplains work with students, families and staff in the school community to fulfil the following roles:

Social

The chaplain offers **strategic support** and **training** to develop leadership and citizenship skills for specific groups of students.

Emotional

The chaplain provides **pastoral care** through pastoral conversations with individuals and groups experiencing personal or social difficulties enabling them to **work through their difficulties** and adjust to change.

Spiritual

The chaplain **stimulates** and **challenges** students to examine the big questions of life and meaning, helping them to formulate **their own beliefs and values systems** and works with staff to incorporate aspects of the core shared values into the educational program of schools.

Mental

The chaplain **provides self esteem** and social skills enhancing programs for specific groups of students that will enable students to **participate more confidently and effectively** in the educational programs of the school.

Physical

The chaplain **creates networks** between the school and welfare and community-based services. The chaplain informs students of the services that are available to them and enables them to **independently** access those services.

At Karratha Senior High School the chaplain is available two days a week and is funded by YouthCARE, the school and by the parents/guardians that pay the \$7.00 chaplaincy fee.

