



National School Chaplaincy Programme

Application and funding process

Fact sheet

The National School Chaplaincy Programme (NSCP) is a four-year program for the employment of chaplains in schools to support the emotional wellbeing of students, by providing pastoral care services and strategies that support the emotional wellbeing of the broader school community.

The NSCP commenced in 2015 and provides up to \$17.57 million per annum to Queensland, over four years, to fund chaplains in state and non-state schools.

This funding and application round is the second phase in implementing the NSCP in Queensland and schools that are successful in their application will be funded for school years 2016 to 2018, inclusive.

Successful schools will be required to demonstrate to the Department of Education and Training the ongoing engagement of a chaplain and capacity to use the total allocated funding amount at the conclusion of semester one and semester two of each year of the NSCP. Schools unable to demonstrate this may risk losing their NSCP funding allocation.

What is the NSCP definition of a chaplain?

The NSCP defines a chaplain as an individual who:

1. is recognised by the school community and the appropriate governing authority for the school as having the skills and experience to deliver school chaplaincy to the school community
2. is recognised through formal ordination, commissioning, recognised religious qualifications or endorsement by a recognised or accepted religious institution
3. meets the NSCP's minimum qualification requirements.

What are the NSCP's minimum qualification requirements for a chaplain?

The minimum qualification requirement for a NSCP chaplain is either:

1. a Certificate IV in Youth Work
2. a Certificate IV in Pastoral Care
3. an [equivalent qualification](#) to the above.

The certificate or equivalent qualification must also include competencies in 'mental health' and 'making appropriate referrals'.

What do chaplains do?

Chaplains support the emotional wellbeing of students by providing pastoral care services and strategies that support the emotional wellbeing of the broader school community.

The NSCP defines 'pastoral care' as the practice of looking after the personal needs of students — not just their academic needs — through the provision of general spiritual and personal advice.

How does my school apply?

All Queensland state, Catholic and independent schools are invited to submit an online application for funding under the NSCP for the 2016–2018 school years. The online application will open Friday 4 September 2015 and can be found on the department's website. All schools will receive an email containing two unique passcodes to access the online application.

Schools that do not lodge the online application by **5.00 pm Tuesday 13 October 2015**, or do not complete all sections of the application, will not be considered for NSCP funding.

My school has more than one campus that wishes to apply for funding — how does the application process work for multi-campus schools?

If your school has more than one campus, the application invitation will only be emailed to the host school to apply on behalf of each campus. The online application enables the applicant to indicate how many school campuses they are applying for and the level of funding requested for each campus. Please liaise with the principal of your host school if your campus wishes to apply for funding for the 2016–2018 school years.

How will applications be assessed?

The NSCP cross-sector panel, consisting of Queensland state, Catholic and independent school representatives, will select and prioritise schools for funding. Applications will be considered using the following criteria:

- Evidence that the school community supports the introduction or continuation of a chaplaincy service within the school. This evidence must be held by the school and can be demonstrated by:
 - the provision of details such as the results of school surveys, meetings, newsletters or community discussions (at a minimum, consultation must have been conducted with the school's parent body or school equivalent)
 - principal endorsed minutes, or a signed letter from the head of the parent body or school equivalent, confirming support for a chaplaincy service.

- Demonstrated need for the NSCP determined through a combination of:
 - EQ Zone Group — a broad classification for Queensland schools based on a number of criteria, including the Accessibility Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA), as in metropolitan, provincial, rural or remote
 - disadvantage code for the school based on the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSED) status
 - number of full-time enrolments in the school
 - proportion of full-time Indigenous students enrolled at the school
 - provision of an existing chaplaincy or student welfare service, funded through the NSCP in 2015, or through the 2015 State Government funds.
- The above criteria will be calculated to produce a school rating. State schools must meet a rating threshold of three or higher to be eligible for funding under the NSCP.

Funding arrangements

The NSCP provides up to \$20,000, or up to \$24,000 in remote/very remote areas, per annum, to be distributed to each school prioritised for funding.

The cross-sector panel will determine each school's individual funding allocation depending on total full-time enrolments. Funding allocations may differ to amounts provided to schools during 2015.

Funds will be distributed to schools by the department, the Queensland Catholic Education Commission and Independent Schools Queensland.

Accredited Employing Authorities

State schools are required to engage a chaplain through an Accredited Employing Authority (AEA) that offers chaplaincy services. Catholic and Independent Schools may engage the services of a chaplain through an AEA, or provider that offers chaplaincy services, or through direct employment as appropriate.

The department has a standing offer arrangement (SOA) with a number of specific AEA organisations. The SOA is an agreement that covers a set period of time according to agreed terms and conditions, including price. The SOA is also available for use by state and non-state schools.

Use of funds

Funding can only be used for purposes that are directly related to the provision of a chaplaincy service in the school for which funds are provided. Activities and the purchase of services and goods which are inconsistent with the purpose of the NSCP will not be funded.

Schools must engage a chaplain and utilise their full annual funding allocation each school year. Each sector will periodically check capacity of schools to meet this obligation during the school semester. Schools that are not able to demonstrate capacity to utilise their funds may have to withdraw from the NSCP.

What is a cluster arrangement?

A cluster arrangement is where a number of schools in a particular locality jointly seek the services of a chaplain/s to provide services in that locality (state schools must still engage the services of a chaplain through an AEA). This is achieved through schools agreeing and contributing their funding to employ a chaplain/s across the cluster. Schools can still only use their own funding allocation to deliver chaplaincy services in their school. Schools may consider partnering with other state, Catholic and independent schools located in the same area.

When do applications close?

Applications close at 5.00 pm, Tuesday 13 October 2015.

When will schools be notified if their application for funding has been successful?

Schools will be notified by email regarding the outcome of their funding application by Tuesday 1 December 2015

If selected, what are schools required to do?

Schools must ensure the following conditions are met:

- participation by students is voluntary
- chaplains may be from any faith
- chaplains must not proselytise
- chaplains must respect, accept and be sensitive to other people's views, values and beliefs
- chaplains must comply with all state laws and policies — including, but not limited to, child protection matters
- chaplains must meet the NSCP's minimum qualification requirements.

Selected schools will be expected to comply with any state or commonwealth reporting requirements.

If schools withdraw from the program, funding may be reallocated to other schools prioritised through the application process.

Additional information

Additional information regarding chaplaincy services in state schools is contained in the department's Chaplaincy/Student Welfare Services policy statement and supporting documents available at: <http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/healthy/chaplaincy-student-welfare.html>

Contact details

For further information, contact:

State schools — StateSchool.Feedback@dete.qld.gov.au

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