National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP)

June 2016 newsletter for Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) schools

The NSCP quarterly newsletters provide information about the program including key facts, program updates, relevant due dates and good news stories.

Who is the newsletter for?

- Participating DECD schools and school communities
- NSCP service providers
- Pastoral care workers
- DECD staff.

NSCP facts

- The Australian Government funded program aims to support the wellbeing of school communities through the provision of pastoral care services and strategies that support the emotional wellbeing of the broader school community.
- 332 DECD schools are receiving funding for a Pastoral Care Worker (PCW) for 2016.
- School and student participation is voluntary.
- Continuation of the service in schools is dependent on ongoing school community support.
- There are currently 4 service providers who employ PCW’s and deliver NSCP services in DECD sites for 2016, Schools Ministry Group (SMG), Centacare, Uniting Care Wesley & Re-Engage Youth Services.

2016 Certification forms

DECD is bound by a project agreement with the Australian Government Department of Education and Training in relation to the funding for the NSCP. There are certain milestones that must be met by DECD for future funding to be provided. DECD is expected to ensure that the NSCP is being delivered according to the project agreement requirements and the submission of the 2016 NSCP Certification Form is part of our monitoring activities.

On Friday 10th June all participating schools were sent an email regarding completion of the NSCP 2016 Certification form. To make the process easier this year, schools were sent a link and required to provide their response by Friday 24th June 2016. If you have not yet completed the certification, you can access the form via the following link: https://www.surveymoz.com/s/HRTBJ/

South Australia’s ongoing funding in this program is contingent on a range of actions being completed. The certification survey being completed by participant sites is one of these requirements. Non-completion of the form may also be considered in any application your school submits for future NSCP funding rounds.

2017-2018 Funding Round

We are currently developing a new application process for the 2017-2018 funding round. This will give all DECD schools the opportunity to apply for the NSCP for 2017-2018 funding, even if your school has not previously participated in the program. Further information and updates will be provided via the NSCP website.
Survey Results

The survey results show that over 65% of schools are very satisfied with their Pastoral Care Worker.

*Contact has been made with schools (where possible) that have registered either a Dissatisfied or Very Dissatisfied result and processes are in place to address any issues to improve the satisfaction rating.

Good News Story

Some fantastic work is being done by Robyn Clasohm, PCW at Yorke Town Area School. Lisa Hendry, the Business Manager has outlined an overview of the amazing work that Robyn has been doing at Yorke Town Area School.

Since starting at Yorke Town Area School in Term 2 last year (two days per week), Robyn has worked with students to raise money and celebrate Reconciliation Day, RUOK Day, White Ribbon Day and National Harmony Day. She has attended school excursions, camps and aquatics days and has mentored a year 11 student through an ambitious but highly successful community studies project. Various fundraising activities have included cake-baking with disengaged students, pizza days with student leaders coupled with at risk students, whole school lunch-time discos, hot chocolate days and sausage sizzles. Robyn happily helped the PLP teacher and students with the 2016 School Play, Ezy Peesey Airlines, and loves to listen to individual student primary school reading.

Robyn has delivered presentations to various classes on Understanding Depression and Anxiety, the Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens, classroom activities around how to ask RUOK? and helped facilitate a school performance by musical group The Germein Sisters, who provided an evocative and emotional performance to the secondary school (a therapeutic opportunity following a student suicide in 2015). Robyn assists the FLO-Case Manager at YAS with the Drumbeat programme and works closely with the Student Wellbeing Coordinator on all SRC and student leadership matters as well as organising speakers and well being educators to come to deliver programs to the students, staff and community.

Of course, in amongst this, Robyn spends time listening to many students who approach her to chat about various home-life, personal or school challenges. ‘Talking circles’ and the use of emotions cards are often requested to overcome conflict between two or more students.

Robyn lists her two most exciting opportunities within the school as her involvement with building momentum and community awareness around The World Peace Flame and how this symbolises such positive and powerful messages for school culture; and working alongside the students as they discover just how powerful and beneficial their collective student voice can be.
We welcome any good news stories from our stakeholders about the NSCP service in your school. If you have a good news story to share, please submit to the NSCP inbox at DECD.chaplaincy@sa.gov.au.

**Program documentation review**

The NSCP guidelines and supporting documentation (all available on the NSCP website) are currently undergoing review. This is to ensure that content is as comprehensive and clear as possible and reflects departmental policy and procedures.

Stakeholders will be notified of the details of the review including future consultation process timeframes via the NSCP website (for external stakeholders) and LinkEd articles (for site leaders).

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DECD NSCP Webpage