

National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP)

September 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.

Audience for newsletter

- 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
- 342 DECD schools will receive funding for 2017
- School and student participation is voluntary
- There are currently 4 service providers who employ PCWs and deliver NSCP services in DECD sites for 2016, [Schools Ministry Group](#) (SMG), [Centacare Adelaide](#), [Uniting Care Wesley Country SA](#) & [Re-Engage Youth Services](#).

2016 Financial Acquittals

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 financial acquittal of funding forms part of these activities.

To make the process easier this year, schools will be able to submit their acquittal online by Wednesday 30 November 2016. A link to the online form will be e-mailed directly to the school principals. Service providers delivering NSCP services to 10 or more schools in 2016 will also be able to lodge a bulk financial acquittal report via the same online platform.

Payment of 2017's funding cannot be disbursed if the financial acquittal for 2016 has not been submitted. Therefore, it's critical that you submit your acquittal by the due date.

2017-2018 Funding

We have announced the funded schools for 2017-2018 and updated the [NSCP website](#) with further information about the application process, why some schools were unsuccessful in their funding applications and uploaded a list of the funded schools for 2017-2018.

From 2017, funding will be paid directly to service providers instead of via schools to make the payment process more efficient and comply with the [Treasurer's Instructions](#). Development of appropriate contractual arrangements is underway.

Schools and service providers will be notified directly of requirements including agreement/s and the payment process/schedule as soon as the process is finalised.

Good News Stories

Schools Ministry Group (SMG) Pastoral Care Worker Cathy Miegel has been providing the chaplaincy service at Lameroo Regional Community School (LRCS) for 18 years. Her outstanding contribution to the community was recognised recently with Cathy receiving the Premier's Volunteer Award at the 2016 Country Cabinet Meeting. Cathy was nominated by the Southern Mallee District Council.

Annette Williams, principal says, "As a result of Cathy's work there are increased programs promoting, developing and supporting the health and wellbeing of all. Cathy's work ranges from the organisation of seminars for students, running parent support groups of an evening, being available for conversations with students, staff and families as someone who will listen in times of trial. (She) facilitates the Student Leadership Team.... due to Cathy's leadership in the area, students are members of school committees and are not only participants but are leaders in the wider Mallee Region representing our school at community connections".



Parents also highly value the role. Comments from a recent review include:

- Cathy is very approachable, listens, helpful, caring, non-discriminatory and just an all-round good person
- Huge support in times of grief, positive interactions with my child regarding wellbeing, friendships, being a role model for others and fostering leadership skills
- Cathy has been supportive of our family who has migrated from another country
- All I can say is that Cathy does her job very well within the school and the community.

Each year Cathy organises a Year 12 Focus Day, where she takes the year 12 students to Murray Bridge for a day of exploring study skills, organisation and year 12 related matters

Biannually Cathy organises a holiday event for reception to year 5 students in the October school holidays for 3 days. Each event is themed. Egypt Adventure with real camels was the theme for 2014.

2016 Premier's Volunteer Award (supplied by LRCS)

When asked the question, "What is good about having Cathy as a Pastoral Care Worker at our school?" a junior student replied, "Because the school wouldn't be like this without her".

Angela Jolly, SMG Executive Director says, "School chaplaincy provides pastoral care and practical support to school communities in a way that is flexible, holistic, respectful of diversity and inclusive to all."

If you have a good news story to share, please submit to the NSCP inbox at DECD.NSCP@sa.gov.au.

National School Chaplaincy Program Guidelines

The [NSCP Guidelines](#) have undergone a major edit after a comprehensive consultation process conducted in August 2016. The feedback was collated and incorporated (where possible/appropriate) into the updated document with an e-mail sent to those that provided feedback during the week of 12-16 September 2016.

Contributing stakeholders included participating NSCP schools, NSCP service providers, DECD central office staff, parents, principal representative associations and wellbeing service providers. Key themes identified included the need for:

- greater clarification around roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders especially the pastoral care workers that provide NSCP services in schools
- strengthening child protection language
- making content more inclusive
- standardising the complaints process/terminology to align with existing DECD policy and promoting this process across school communities
- stronger information regarding consent.

The newly drafted document is currently awaiting final approval for publication via the policy pathways process within DECD. Once approved, the document will be made available on the [NSCP website](#) (for external stakeholders), LinkED articles (for site leaders) and direct e-mails to participating schools and service providers.

Thank you to all those who participated in the process.

National Program Evaluation

As you would be aware, we have undertaken some survey activity for the NSCP during 2015-2016 by asking limited evaluation questions in the annual Certification Forms submitted by site leaders.

The Australian Government Department of Education and Training is undertaking a national independent evaluation of the program via a company called TNS. Under section 10 of the [project agreement](#) for funding, DECD is required to, "...participate in an evaluation of the NSCP".

Participation is voluntary and open to site leaders, parents, students and pastoral care workers for NSCP funded schools in 2016. The survey aims to evaluate the NSCP's impact on the emotional wellbeing of students and the broader school community.

An e-mail containing an information pack and survey link was directly e-mailed to site leaders on 4 November 2016. The surveys are available online from 7-23 November 2016.

Contact

Note the updated NSCP e-mail address provided below. Please update your records.

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[DECD NSCP Webpage](#)