National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP)

December 2017 Update for Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) schools

The NSCP quarterly updates provide information about the program including key facts, program updates, relevant due dates and impact 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.
- 342 DECD schools received funding for a Pastoral Care Worker (PCW) in 2017, with 42 schools new to NSCP participation.
- 342 DECD schools will also receive NSCP funding in 2018.
- School and student participation is voluntary.
- There are four (4) service providers employing PCWs and delivering NSCP services to DECD sites in 2017 - Centacare Adelaide, Re-Engage Youth Services, Schools Ministry Group, and Uniting Country SA.
- The school determines the wellbeing needs of the school community and the services to be delivered as the ‘best fit’ for the school.
- Schools may choose to discontinue services or change service providers and/or pastoral care workers at any time during the year, in line with contractual arrangements.

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2018 funding and school NSCP reporting (payment 4, 2017)

For principals

All schools currently funded for the NSCP in 2017 will continue to receive funding in 2018.

A survey was sent out to all participating schools on 17 November 2017 requesting confirmation of services for 2017 and service provider nominations for 2018.

Thank you to all schools for completing the survey so quickly. The results of this survey enable us to give your service provider a list of schools for service in 2018 and we can pay them to deliver the service. Delays in this process can result in suspension of services until all schools have responded and payment can be made.

Service Provider 2017 Annual Report

Under section 3.1.3 (attachment 5) of the NSCP agreement, service providers are required to submit an annual report to DECD. All service providers were sent a link to the survey to complete this report on 24 November 2017.

To help you complete your report, you will need following information for the 2017 school year contained within a single document:

- List of SA government serviced schools;
- Total number of NSCP service hours required for each serviced school;
- Total number of NSCP service hours delivered for each serviced school;
- Total number of students that accessed NSCP services for each serviced school;
- Annual funding received and expended for each serviced school;
- Any unexpended NSCP funding to be returned to DECD;
- Financial payments and acquittal related information including how much of the NSCP funds were used in service delivery and administration costs;
- Confirmation that performance reviews have been conducted and recorded for each PCW delivering NSCP services (including the principal in the review process);
- Details of any complaints or concerns identified regarding the PCW or the provision of NSCP services; and
- Aggregated data about the nature of the NSCP services provided (please ensure that this data does not identify individual recipients of NSCP services)

The due date for the service provider annual report is Friday 15 December 2017. You can access the link to the survey here.

General NSCP questions:

We are regularly contacted by schools with questions about the NSCP. The NSCP team has put together some of the most common questions and responses we have received over 2017 which we thought would be useful for all DECD NSCP funded schools.

Can I increase my funding in 2018?

No.

For the 2017-18 funding round, each selected school was allocated a fixed amount which represented a level of minimum hours service delivery per calendar year for the funding period.

Schools and service providers can negotiate a level of servicing above the minimum hours as funded by the NCSP, however, additional funding will not be provided from DECD if additional hours of service are provided.

Schools are able to work with the local community regarding raising additional funds to increase NSCP services. However, should this occur, schools must ensure that any local and community monies raised for delivering NSCP services are conducted so the purpose and use of monies is clear to all parties. Funding that is not provided by DECD or other government avenues (e.g. from local or school community) is not required to be acquitted to DECD. Resource entitlement statement (RES) monies provided by DECD also cannot be used to supplement NSCP services.
For further information on funding allocation, please refer to section 4.5.2 – Funding Allocation of the NSCP guidelines.

We will not meet the minimum hours allocated to us in December 2017; can these hours be rolled into 2018?
No.

All NSCP service hours that a school is funded for need to be delivered within the calendar year in which they are issued; however there are sometimes extenuating circumstances when this cannot be achieved (ie resignation/loss of PCW, gap in service). In these circumstances, if a school is identified as unlikely to expend all the NSCP funds, there may be the opportunity to reallocate the unspent funds to another school funded through the program.

Funding is paid directly to service providers and any unexpended funds provided to service providers are then reallocated by the service provider. It is important that you communicate with your nominated service provider, regularly to identify if the opportunity for additional funds may arise.

If you have any other general NSCP questions you would like answered, please forward them through to DECD.NSCP@sa.gov.au.

Program Auditing

DECD has commenced auditing of the NSCP to check compliance with contract/program requirements.

The first stage was a desktop audit with service providers asking them to provide information including current insurances, pastoral care worker qualifications, working with children clearances and RAN-EC training details. The desktop audit was undertaken in August-September 2017 and feedback letters have been provided directly to NSCP service providers. Thank you to the service providers for making this data available.

The second stage will be a sample of site visits in early 2018. Sites selected will be notified directly.

The types of information that we will be seeking from schools are:

- Hours of delivery of the NSCP (is the majority delivered during school hours?)
- What type of activities and programs are offered by the PCW?
- How many students are accessing the NSCP service provided by the PCW?
- Have any themes been identified as to why the students access the NSCP services?
- Is the NSCP funding supplemented?
- Evidence of informed consent process for students accessing the NSCP and the voluntary nature of the NSCP
- Complaints process
- Details of how the school ensures the PCW acts within the role responsibilities
- Records management processes

NSCP Impact Story

DECD welcomes articles from school communities and service providers highlighting the contributions of pastoral care workers providing NSCP services in meeting the wellbeing needs of SA government schools.

If you have a NSCP impact story to share, please contact DECD Engagement and Wellbeing at DECD.NSCP@sa.gov.au.

Contact

DECD Engagement and Wellbeing
Phone: (08) 8226 1029
Email: DECD.NSCP@sa.gov.au
Webpage: DECD NSCP Webpage