National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP)
March 2018 quarterly update for Department for Education schools

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

Audience for newsletter
- NSCP participating Department for Education schools and school communities
- NSCP service providers
- Pastoral care workers
- Department for Education 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 Department for Education schools are funded for a Pastoral Care Worker (PCW) in 2018.
- Funding is paid directly to service providers not schools.
- School and student participation is voluntary.
- There are three (3) service providers employing PCWs and delivering NSCP services to Department for Education schools in 2018 - Centacare Adelaide, 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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General NSCP questions:

We are regularly contacted by schools with questions about the NSCP. In this section, we provide responses to the most common questions received.

Will the NSCP continue after 2018?

The Australian Government has not committed any funds for the National School Chaplaincy Program beyond December 2018. It is anticipated that the Australian Government’s May budget will confirm if the program will continue to be funded post 2018 or not.

Does our school need to stay with the same service provider over the life of the program?

No. The service is meant to be tailored to your school community needs so if, after discussion with your existing service provider, it is no longer the best fit, you are able to change pastoral care worker and/or service provider at any time. If you require information on this process, please refer to section 4.10.3 of the NSCP guideline. If you need further support with this process, please contact us on the details provided on page 4 of this update.

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

Quarterly confirmations (payment certification) for schools

Each quarter a short survey is sent out to all Department for Education NSCP funded schools seeking confirmation that your service provider:

- Has delivered NSCP services for the previous quarter in accordance with requirements; OR
- Has/is seeking to, appoint a suitably qualified pastoral care worker to deliver services for the next quarter.

The completion of this short 1-2 minute survey triggers payment to service providers for the following quarter to deliver NSCP services.

An email will be sent to all principals around 2 weeks before the survey due date. It’s important that when you receive the email that you complete the survey by the due date to ensure there is no impact on the NSCP service delivery in your school. Service providers will also be notified when emails have been sent out to principals.

Survey due dates:

Period 1: 23/03/18 (completed)
Period 2: 15/06/18
Period 3: 14/09/18
Period 4: 07/12/18

Student Wellbeing Leaders Conference

On the 19-20th of February over 300 student wellbeing leaders from across 200 schools came together at the Adelaide Oval for the inaugural Student Wellbeing Leaders (SWL) professional learning conference.

Over two days SWLs heard from presenters about universal anti-bullying strategies, trauma-informed practice and self-care.

The NSCP team had a stall at the conference which provided a great opportunity to receive feedback from student wellbeing leaders and principals on how the program is operating in schools and the valuable work and contribution of PCWs to school communities.

The following are examples of feedback received:

“Our PCW is a beautiful fit for the school community; she has been there for many years and is a central part of the wellbeing team.”

“The PCW works really, really well. She’s a great person to have in the school and gets along well with everyone.”
“Brilliant! Our PCW goes above and beyond for the wellbeing needs of the school.”

A NSCP summary sheet was handed out to conference participants who visited the stall. The document provides a short summary of the program, what PCWs do and don’t do, how the program integrates with other wellbeing services and contact details for existing service providers and Department for Education NSCP program staff. This document can also be accessed via the NSCP webpage.

Program Auditing

The Department for Education has commenced auditing of the NSCP to check compliance with contract/program requirements.

During the first stage, service providers were asked 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 were provided directly to NSCP service providers. Thank you to the service providers for making this data available.

The second stage consists of visiting a sample of NSCP-funded schools. This stage will commence in the near future and schools selected have been notified.

The types of information that we are seeking from schools relate to the agreement with service providers and the NSCP guideline:

- Hours of delivery of the NSCP (is the majority of the service 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 students access the NSCP service?
- Is the NSCP funding supplemented? If so, how?
- Evidence of informed consent process for students accessing the NSCP and the voluntary nature of the NSCP
- Complaints and records management processes
- Details of how the school ensures the PCW acts within the role responsibilities

NSCP Impact Story

Lisa Peterson is a Pastoral Care Worker employed by Schools Ministry Group at Long Street Primary School in Whyalla. In the following story, Lisa talks about how she helps students in the middle and upper primary classes to face friendship and bullying matters.

“I put together a lesson plan with the student wellbeing leader to teach the students about compliments, and then gave them all bags to decorate with their name. We stuck them on a board, and on small pieces of paper, they wrote compliments to each other. Each day they chose different classmates to write a compliment about, and at the end of the day, they got to check their bags to see all the nice things that others had said about them. Students were given new words and ideas that were positive in nature, and not negative. They looked for good things to say, rather than negative things, helping to change their thinking and the way they looked at others.”

This simple and innovative approach has had a positive impact with the students, and other teachers at the school want to adopt the ‘compliments bag’ idea for their classes. The students have been empowered and have improved their capabilities and connection with their peers. The most notable change as a result of this program has been a significant improvement in their relationships, especially language which promotes respectful and meaningful interactions in the playground.

Long Street Primary School has only had a Pastoral Care Worker for 12 months, after successfully applying for NSCP funds.
Staff have seen the changes in the school already with feedback that, “Lisa has been a great support for staff, children and families from what I have seen. She has been doing fantastic activities with students to try and promote a positive change. Staff have also noticed that the, positive relationships with students has improved student learning and wellbeing.”

The Department for Education 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 an NSCP impact story to share, please contact Department for Education Engagement and Wellbeing team at DECD.NSCP@sa.gov.au.

**Contact**

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