National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP)

September 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 update

- 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 will receive funding for a Pastoral Care Worker (PCW) in 2017, with 42 schools new to NSCP participation.
- School and student participation is voluntary.
- There are five (5) service providers employing PCWs and delivering NSCP services to DECD sites in 2017 - Centacare Adelaide, Centacare Country SA, Re-Engage Youth Services, Schools Ministry Group, and Uniting Care Wesley 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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School NSCP Reporting (Quarter 2, 2017)

Thank you to the 342 NSCP funded schools for completing the online confirmation report for the second quarter (April to June), 2017.

This meant that we could distribute the upfront funding for quarter 3 (July to September 2017) to your nominated service provider to continue delivering NSCP services to your schools.

Feedback received about the program for the second quarter highlighted the benefits of having a pastoral care worker in the school with comments including:

- excellent and skilled practitioner...outstanding support in large school community
- providing an effective and efficient service in a very positive way
- has continued to work very effectively within the student support team and built strong relationships that support a range of resilience and anxiety programs at the school
- high satisfaction with the services provided
- highly professional and well respected by our school community
- fantastic asset to our school community. Thank you we greatly appreciate the service
- outstanding services to our school community
- highly skilled and works collaboratively with school leaders as part of our wellbeing team.

Under the NSCP, the total minimum number of hours allocated to a school must be delivered during the school year, in consultation and agreement with the site leader. Any schools that are currently experiencing a gap in service delivery e.g. pastoral care worker resignation or challenges recruiting an appropriately qualified worker to deliver services should speak with their service provider to resolve.

Note that schools are able to change service providers at any time and if any further support is required, please contact the DECD NSCP Team.

School NSCP Reporting (Quarter 3, 2017)

Site Leaders were sent an email requesting confirmation of the third quarter’s NSCP services for 2017. The email contains a link to the online form which should take approximately 2 minutes to complete. Confirmations were due by cob Friday, 15 September 2017. Confirmation allows DECD to pay service providers to ensure that sites have continuity of services.

In December site leaders will be sent a request for confirmation of services so that payment to service providers can be made in arrears for December 2017 and upfront for the January – March 2018 periods. This process ensures that DECD meets financial requirements. The full reporting and payment schedule can be found at section 4.5.1 (funding arrangements) in the National School Chaplaincy Program for government schools guideline.

Program Auditing

DECD has commenced auditing of the NSCP to check compliance with contract/program requirements. The first stage is a desktop audit with service providers asked to provide information including current insurances, pastoral care worker qualifications, working with children clearances and RAN-EC training details. This is being undertaken in August-September 2017. The second stage will be a sample of site visits in late 2017/early 2018. Sites selected will be notified directly.

Service Provider 2017 Annual Report

As per section 3.1.3 (attachment 5) of the National School Chaplaincy Program agreement, service providers are required to submit an annual report to DECD on delivery of NSCP services including a financial acquittal. Service providers will be sent an e-mail around the 1 December 2017 with the link to the online form for submission by 15 December 2017.
National School Chaplaincy Program Website

The NSCP website is the most updated resource for sites, their communities and NSCP service providers. The National School Chaplaincy Program for government schools guideline is also accessible on this website. Updated content provides clarity to sites and service providers about program implementation.

NSCP Impact Story

Conrad Tickner – a pastoral care worker at Kangaroo Island Community Education (KICE) received the Schools Ministry Group Innovation Award on 26 July 2017. Conrad was nominated for the award by KICE’s principal Maxine McSherry in recognition of the positive impact he has made across multiple KICE campuses.

Maxine said, “Conrad works across three sites situated over 120 kms apart. Sometimes children and young people on KI have special needs due to geographical isolation.

He has developed his own well-being initiative with his ‘random acts of kindness’ program and has been instrumental in implementing the Rite Journey program at KICE.

He most recently supported students in their contribution to the International Small Island Conference”.

The Rite Journey program is designed to support young people in the transition from child to adulthood, by fostering responsibility, self-awareness, respect and resilience.

Maxine goes on to say that Conrad’s weekly work includes, “Being a positive male role model, acting as a confidant and providing pastoral care for students. His high level skills and caring contributions blended with complete dedication to his role cannot be underestimated in terms of the positive effects on the well-being of KICE and wider KI community.”

Conrad was presented with the award by SMG Ambassador Brenton Ragless and Mark Lee from Uniting Venues SA (award sponsor) in front of 500 guests at the SMG Community Event.

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