

National School Chaplaincy program (NSCP)

What is the NSCP?

The NSCP is in 342 South Australian government schools for 2018.

The NSCP aims to support South Australian government schools through providing pastoral care workers (PCW) to assist in addressing the wellbeing needs of students and school communities. Although PCWs may be religiously affiliated, they are prohibited from proselytising*.

The NSCP is not intended to diminish or replace existing careers advice, counselling or wellbeing services. It is designed to form part of the wellbeing services that exist within school communities.

PCWs must possess minimum qualifications such as a Certificate IV in youth work, Certificate IV in pastoral care or equivalent.

**Proselytising is to convert or attempt to convert someone to an opinion and/or belief, particularly a religion.*

What do pastoral care workers do?

PCWs are required to respect, accept and be sensitive to other people's views, values and beliefs regardless of race, religion, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

The key tasks of a PCW will vary depending on the needs of individual school communities.

Some examples include:

- Role modelling and mentoring
- Social and emotional support
- Community engagement
- Resilience programs
- Breakfast clubs

For more examples of tasks performed by PCWs, refer to the NSCP guidelines available on the department's webpage.

What don't pastoral care workers do?

When delivering services under the NSCP, PCWs are required to adhere to the NSCP guidelines and their employer's code of conduct.

There are certain tasks that pastoral care workers should not be performing such as delivering religious education, proselytising, and initiating faith discussions.

Refer to the NSCP guidelines for examples of tasks that should not be included in the role of a pastoral care worker.

The National School Chaplaincy Program is funded by the Australian Government. The program aims to support the emotional wellbeing of students through provision of pastoral care services and strategies that support the emotional wellbeing of the broader school community.

Integration with other wellbeing services

A shared understanding of the roles, responsibilities and referral pathways for all wellbeing services in schools will improve the likelihood that the resources are utilised in the most efficient and effective manner so that children, young people and their families receive ‘the right service at the right time’.

PCWs work with the principal and the school’s wellbeing staff to refer children and young people to appropriate services when required. All wellbeing services have interconnecting roles.

Further information can be found in the *Roles, responsibilities and referral pathways* document on the intranet.

Current NSCP service providers

Centacare Adelaide

P: 8215 6700

www.centacare.org.au

Re-Engage Youth Services

P: 8326 6540

<http://re-engage.com.au>

Schools Ministry Group (SMG)

P: 8378 6800

www.smg.asn.au

Uniting Country SA

P: 8633 8600

www.uksa.org.au

Contact details

Department for Education

A: GPO Box 1152, Adelaide, SA 5001

P: 8226 1029

E: DECD.NSCP@sa.gov.au

W: <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/teaching/projects-and-programs/national-school-chaplaincy-program>

Search: ‘Chaplaincy’ at www.education.sa.gov.au