

## WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF HAVING AN SMG CHAPLAINCY SERVICE?

SMG Chaplaincy Services take a holistic approach nurturing the wellbeing of the whole school community – students, staff and families.

- SMG's Pastoral Care Workers (PCWs) deliver compassionate and informal pastoral and practical support, primarily by role modelling, mentoring, and establishing caring, consistent, ongoing relationships
- SMG PCWs develop connections with external services and agencies as well as obtaining support and resources from the local combined Christian community

## WHO SELECTS OUR PASTORAL CARE WORKER?

As part of the recruitment process a selection panel comprising the Principal, SMG Regional Manager and representatives from the Governing Council and local Chaplaincy Support Group will work together to select a suitable candidate.

- Once appointed the Principal or an appointed leader will line manage the PCW
- They will meet regularly to discuss and review PCW activities, school needs, and future initiatives
- The SMG Regional Manager provides and facilitates ongoing support and care of the PCW

## WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO PASTORAL CARE WORKERS NEED TO HAVE?

PCWs hold qualifications in youth work, community services or other relevant disciplines, to at least a Certificate IV level.

- Most of SMG's PCWs exceed the minimum requirement, and many hold higher-level degree qualifications
- Before commencement in a school PCWs undertake 3 days of orientation training, and a further 2 days after completion of the first term of employment
- SMG is committed to ensuring PCWs are developing professionally and growing personally
- SMG provides an annual conference for all PCWs as well as access to other professional development opportunities
- SMG also has a mentoring program for PCWs personal development



## WHAT IS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN A PASTORAL CARE WORKER AND A COUNSELLOR, PSYCHOLOGIST OR SIMILAR?

SMG PCWs work in partnership with other caring professionals in the wider school community, yet have a unique and distinctive role.

- A PCW serves the community in a “first-response capacity” by providing pastoral care, social, emotional and spiritual support and referral to specialist crisis support
- They are well placed to do this because they are approachable and accessible, having a neutral, rather than disciplinary role
- This accessibility often enables them to be made aware of situations early, allowing them to provide effective referrals to other professionals

## WHAT CHECKS, CLEARANCES AND CONSENT PROCESSES ARE REQUIRED FOR PASTORAL CARE WORKERS?

- PCWs must obtain/hold a Working With Children Check, and have completed Responding to Abuse and Neglect training
- SMG adheres to all relevant Dept. for Education Guidelines and policies guidelines (in particular The NSCP for Government Schools Guideline inc. parental consent policies)

## DO PASTORAL CARE WORKERS HAVE A ROLE IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION?

SMG PCWs do not provide formal religious education nor do they impose their religious beliefs on students, staff or the wider community, or seek to “convert” them.

- SMG's PCW Code of Conduct, Dept. for Education guidelines, and NSCP funding requirements all prohibit PCWs from proselytising
- PCWs support and facilitate spiritual wellbeing and provide a resourcing service to those who request it
- SMG PCWs affirm spirituality as part of the holistic approach to setting the trajectory for lifelong wellbeing outcomes as stated in the 2016 Dept. for Education (previously DECD) Wellbeing Framework for Learning and Life

## HELPING PARENTS TELL CHILDREN ABOUT THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE

“My Father in law had been killed in a car accident, and my Mother in law had been airlifted to hospital. We didn't know what to tell our kids, so we made the decision to send them to school. We received a phone call from Julie saying that our daughter was upset.

I explained to Julie what had occurred overnight and that I didn't know what to do. Julie was amazing and offered to help my husband and I tell the kids that their Grandpa had passed away.

I am eternally grateful for Julie's support, guidance and knowledge through that time.”

Kim Mangelsdorf, Parent  
Reynella Primary School

