



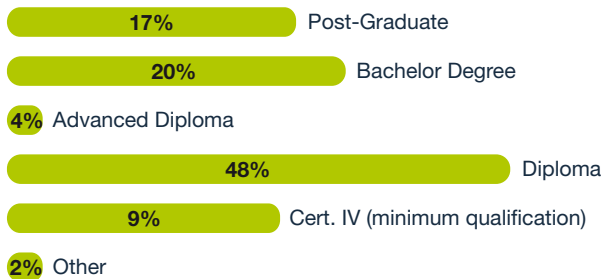
# 2020 SU CHAPLAINCY QUEENSLAND SNAPSHOT

School chaplains have been providing social, emotional, and spiritual support in schools for more than 30 years. Throughout 2019 we collected information on their activities and impact. We are pleased to share our findings with you.

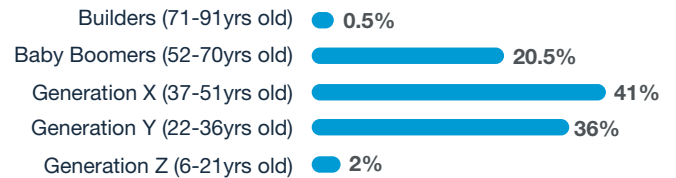
## QUICK FACTS

### Qualifications

89% of chaplains exceed the minimum qualification level of Cert. IV across Youth Work, Social Science, Education, Ministry/Theology, and other disciplines.



### Generations



### Did you know?

The average age of an SU QLD school chaplain is 44 years of age.

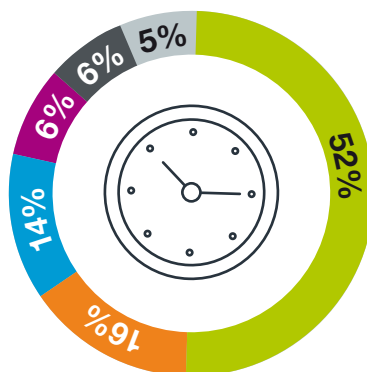
### Gender



## WHAT DOES A SCHOOL CHAPLAIN DO?

Chaplains in Queensland provide social, emotional, and spiritual support to school communities. They contribute to the overall wellbeing strategies and educational goals of our local schools.

Chaplains promote positive spirituality. They provide opportunities for students, staff and families to explore their own spirituality and what it means to them.



### How much time do chaplains spend on each of their key role areas?\*

- Social, emotional, and spiritual support
- Educational support
- Role modelling and mentoring
- Extracurricular activities
- Team contributions
- Community development

## WHAT IMPACT DO SCHOOL CHAPLAINS HAVE?



*"Every school needs a chaplain to help those who need it. For me, Chappy Aaron's the best because he does everything for everyone."*

Mackenzie, student

*"Chappy Phil is the kindest, gentlest, most caring person and I'm honoured he's in my son's life. We don't have a lot of friends in Mackay but we do have Phil. Chappy Phil is there for us."*

Tania, mum



\*Total 99% due to rounding.

## WHO DO SCHOOL CHAPLAINS TALK TO?\*

In Queensland, school chaplaincy services are available and accessible to all students, staff and families. Chaplains don't provide case management or counselling but complement other school support services by providing pastoral care support.

### STUDENTS

Chaplains have

**12,810**

pastoral conversations every week, which makes up

**65%**

of their pastoral conversations. In an average three-day week, a chaplain would have

**23**

pastoral conversations.



### SCHOOL STAFF

Chaplains have

**4,602**

pastoral conversations every week, which makes up

**23%**

of their pastoral conversations. In an average three-day week, a chaplain would have

**8**

pastoral conversations.

### PARENTS/CARERS

Chaplains have

**2,343**

pastoral conversations every week, which makes up

**12%**

of their pastoral conversations. In an average three-day week, a chaplain would have

**4**

pastoral conversations.

## HOW DO SCHOOL CHAPLAINS HELP STUDENTS?\*



### Top 5 issues students talk to chaplains about

- 1 Friendship and peer issues (15%)
- 2 Bullying/ Harassment (13%)
- 3 School behaviour (10%)
- 4 Mental health — anxiety/depression (9%)
- 5 Family breakdown/parental separation (9%)

### What's the difference between an informal and formal conversation?

A formal conversation requires resolution, referral or follow-up. An informal conversation, though significant, requires no further action.

With permission from the school principal, chaplains may refer families and individuals to relevant internal and external agencies for additional support.

### EVERY YEAR chaplains have

**143,787**

formal conversations and

**368,629**

informal conversations WITH STUDENTS\*\*



### Meetings with other school-based support staff per week\*

- 1,068 School line managers
- 966 Guidance officer
- 640 Community groups & promotional events
- 564 School wellbeing leader/Student services manager/Year level coordinators
- 411 Combined student support meeting
- 309 Special Needs coordinator
- 298 Community education coordinator
- 224 Youth support coordinator
- 200 School nurse
- 67 School police officer
- 53 Defence Education Liaison Officer
- 33 Social worker
- 26 Welfare worker
- 19 Psychologist
- 11 Counsellor

## THINGS THAT CAN'T BE MEASURED



In a world where success is often relayed via numerical values, it's easy to overlook the things that can't be measured – and the impact they can have on young people.

Since 2014, Glen Peterson has been the Chappy at Mansfield State High School – which is the largest Queensland school with an SU chaplain.

Mansfield SHS has 3,100 students from Grades 7 - 12, which means Chappy Glen is always looking for ways to build a sense of community between parents, staff and students.

"I write a weekly newsletter called Chappy Spotlight, which is all about breaking down barriers and encouraging the staff to get to know each other better. One of the ways I do that is through staff interviews," says Chappy Glen.

"Because of the size of our school, it's easy to get 'lost in the crowd'. As chaplain, I wanted to create opportunities for our school community members to feel valued and connected."

Chappy Glen got the idea to value each student on their birthday by setting up an email roster so their special day is acknowledged 4-5 times as they go from class to class.

"This idea has been worthwhile because it influences engagement between students and their teachers," says Glen.

"Creating community is so important for young people, and when you value a young person, it reduces the size of the school."

Although it can't always be measured by facts and figures, Chappy Glen does an incredible job showing the power of community and how it can transform a school – no matter the size.

## WHAT OTHER WAYS DO SCHOOL CHAPLAINS PROVIDE SUPPORT?



School chaplains provide support to 2,604 classes every week.

You will regularly find school chaplains intentionally *out and about* during school breaks.

Extracurricular activities school chaplains provide support in

Coaching sports teams, Supervision for camps and excursions, Student Leadership programs, Lunchtime games, Music & Drama programs, Tutoring, School Dances, Hobby groups, School Fetes and Book weeks.



Chaplains spend 93% of break time working with students, staff and parents.

# WHAT TYPES OF PROGRAMS DO CHAPLAINS RUN IN SCHOOLS?

Chaplains make a significant contribution to the wellbeing of school communities through the facilitation of social, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing programs, such as FRIENDS Resilience, Rock and Water, Triple P, and Seasons for Growth. These programs involve daily, weekly, or monthly sessions in response to the needs of the school.

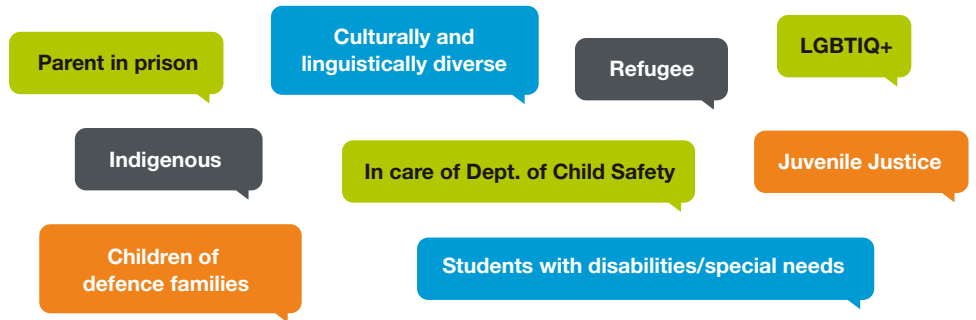


## How many programs do chaplains run in an average school term?\*

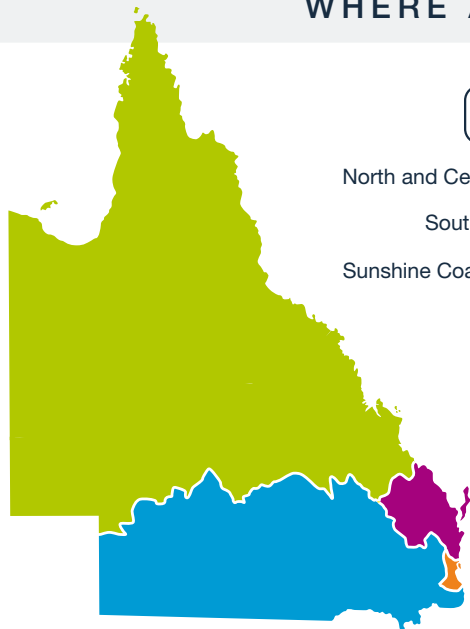


# DO SCHOOL CHAPLAINS SUPPORT THOSE AT-RISK?

School chaplains are available to everyone, but they are particularly invested in supporting individuals and groups who may be considered at-risk. Through early intervention activities and pastoral support, school chaplains increase the chances of these young people experiencing better life outcomes.



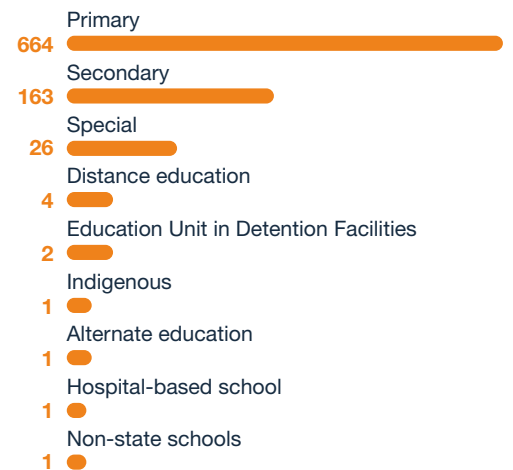
# WHERE ARE OUR SCHOOL CHAPLAINS?



## Distribution of chaplains

- North and Central Queensland ● **245 schools**
- Southern Queensland ● **260 schools**
- Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay ● **138 schools**
- Brisbane ● **222 schools**

## Different types of schools chaplains work in



If you would like to download this report, visit [suchaplaincy.org.au/snapshot2020](http://suchaplaincy.org.au/snapshot2020)



This research and design was undertaken in partnership with **mccrindle** [mccrindle.com.au](http://mccrindle.com.au)

**SU CHAPLAINCY – A DIVISION OF SCRIPTURE UNION QUEENSLAND**

A member of the Scripture Union International community. **ABN** 74 009 669 569 **RTO** 30548  
Level 1, 126 Barry Pde, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006 **T** 1300 478 753 **E** [info@suchaplaincy.org.au](mailto:info@suchaplaincy.org.au)



\*Figures are rounded