



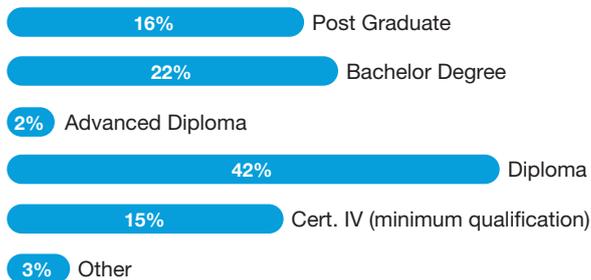
2021 SU CHAPLAINCY QUEENSLAND SNAPSHOT

School chaplains have been providing social, emotional, and spiritual support in schools for more than 30 years. Throughout 2020 we collected information on their activities and impact. We are pleased to share our findings with you.

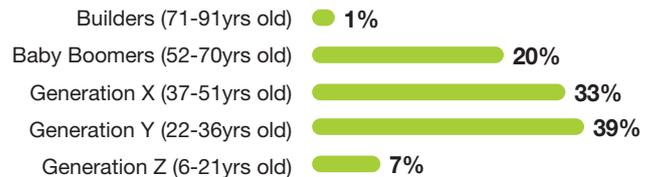
QUICK FACTS

Qualifications

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



Generations



**Data from the SU QLD staff database.*



Did you know?



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

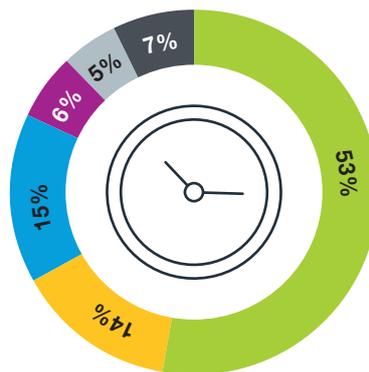
Gender



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
- Role modelling and mentoring
- Educational support
- Extracurricular activities
- Community development
- Team contributions

WHAT IMPACT DO SCHOOL CHAPLAINS HAVE?



"Our family has had a really rough year and without the help from Chappy Sam I don't think we would have made it through."

Kathryn, mum

"It's been challenging, especially not being able to be face-to-face with most kids, but having our chaplains here to be a support when and where needed has been incredible."

Kelly, Student Services Learning Leader, Murrumba SSC.



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
15,454

pastoral conversations every week, which makes up

62%

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

27

pastoral conversations.

SCHOOL STAFF
Chaplains have
6,114

pastoral conversations every week, which makes up

25%

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

11

pastoral conversations.

PARENTS/CARERS
Chaplains have
3,117

pastoral conversations every week, which makes up

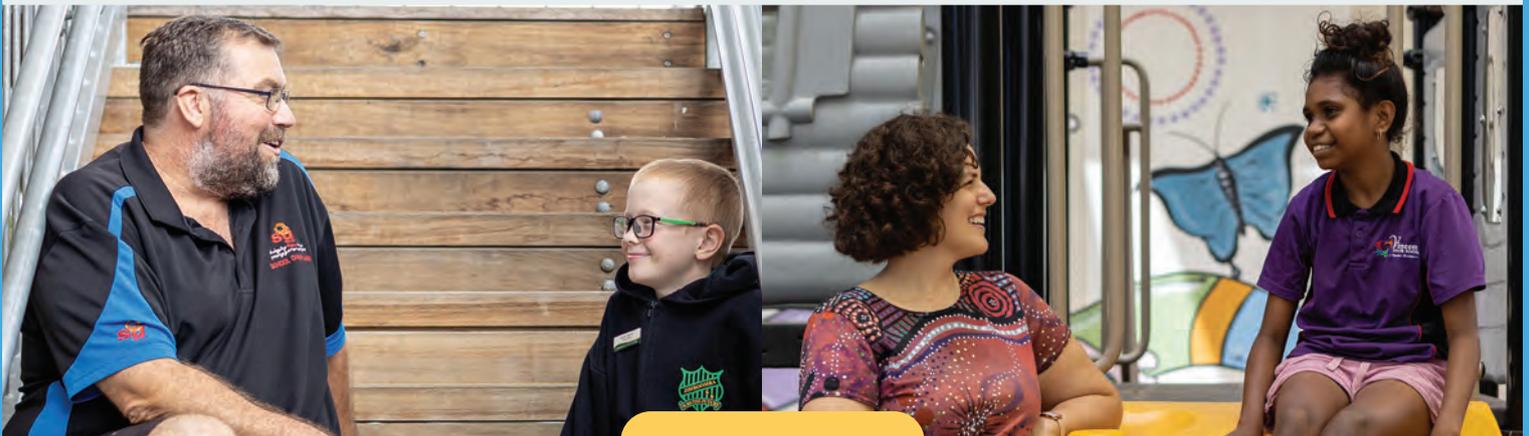
13%

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

5

pastoral conversations.

HOW DO SCHOOL CHAPLAINS HELP STUDENTS?



Top 5 issues students talk to chaplains about

- 1 Friendship/Peer Issues (14%)
- 2 Bullying / harassment (12%)
- 3 Mental Health – Anxiety/Depression (11%)
- 4 School Behaviour (10%)
- 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

169,688

formal conversations
and

448,452

informal conversations
WITH STUDENTS**

How many pastoral conversations were about COVID?

- 15% Students
- 21% Staff
- 16% Parents/Carers



Per cent of chaplains reporting increases in the following areas due to COVID.

- 65% Mental Health Problems
- 55% Family Conflict
- 54% School Behaviour

School chaplains provide support to 2,399 classes every week.

SUPPORTING SCHOOLS DURING COVID-19



In her regional school community, half-an-hour south of Gympie, Chappy Jen remained a comforting and reassuring presence for families, teachers and parents throughout the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020.

"It's been important to reassure families that we're there for them if anyone needs to talk," says Chappy Jen.

And more than talk, Chappy Jen was busy putting together 'Care Packs' for parents of the 22 families in the school, which included tea sachets, easter eggs, a keep-cup, hand-made bookmarks and a tote bag from a community group in Gympie.

Inside the school itself, Jen was helping teachers put together the paper-based curriculum packs for their students.

"Because of the small school size and an unreliable internet service, our school decided that everything would be paper-based. Parents come in every

second week and collect the new supplies. I'm always there to check in to see how they're going," says Chappy Jen.

"I used to home-school myself, so it's been nice to pass on some wisdom to the parents who were concerned about keeping up."

In addition to supporting overwhelmed parents, Jen was also on hand to invest in her relationships with the teaching staff.

"In the midst of all this 'new', it's been really nice to see the staff have the time for social interactions. We all stop for lunch together, and the environment is different," says Chappy Jen.

Throughout 2020, and particularly during the COVID-19 shutdown, school chaplains once again showed why they are vital to the social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of their school communities.

HOW DID COVID-19 SHAPE CHAPLAINCY?



An unprecedented year required many to adapt to the 'new normal'.

Chaplains pivoted in their roles to meet the needs of their school communities.



56% of chaplains delivered food and care parcels to families.



33% of chaplains visited families in their homes.



66% of chaplains reported championing school morale during the pandemic.



58% of chaplains reported an increase of pastoral support provided via phone.



61% of chaplains reported an increase of pastoral support provided online.



65% of chaplains reported an increase of pastoral interaction with school staff.

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?*



336
Breakfast clubs



21
Anti-bullying



143
Mentoring and role modelling



26
Diversity support



501
Educational support



184
Spiritual Support Programs



18
Parenting



554
Social-emotional support



26
Funerals and Memorials



405
Community development, events and activities

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.

Parent in prison

Culturally and linguistically diverse

Refugee

LGBTIQ+

Indigenous

In care of Dept. of Child Safety

Juvenile Justice

Children of defence families

Students with disabilities/special needs

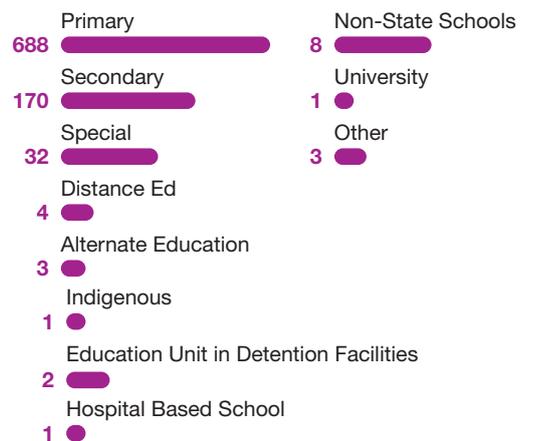
WHERE ARE OUR SCHOOL CHAPLAINS?

Distribution of chaplains



North and Central Queensland ● **253 schools**
 Southern Queensland ● **282 schools**
 Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay ● **151 schools**
 Brisbane ● **227 schools**

Different types of schools chaplains work in



If you would like to download this report, visit suchaplaincy.org.au/snapshot2021



This research and design was undertaken in partnership with **mccrindle** mccrindle.com.au

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