

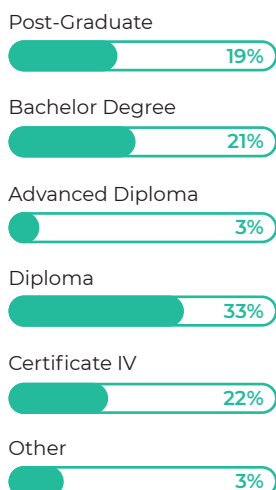
SU Chaplaincy national snapshot 2024

SU has been providing social, emotional and pastoral support in Australian schools through chaplaincy for over 30 years. Throughout 2023 we collected information on their activities and impact. We are pleased to share our findings with you.

quick facts

Qualifications

97% of chaplains meet/exceed the minimum qualification level of Cert. IV across Youth Work, Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care, Social Science, Education, Ministry/Theology, and other disciplines.



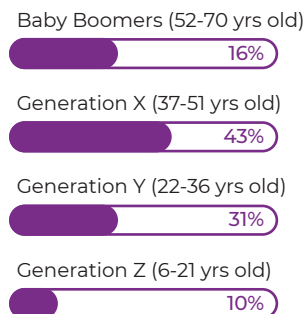
Total percentages add to 101% due to rounding.

DID YOU KNOW?

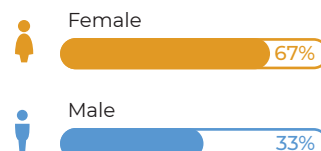
The average age of an SU Australia school chaplain is 44 years of age.



Generations



Gender

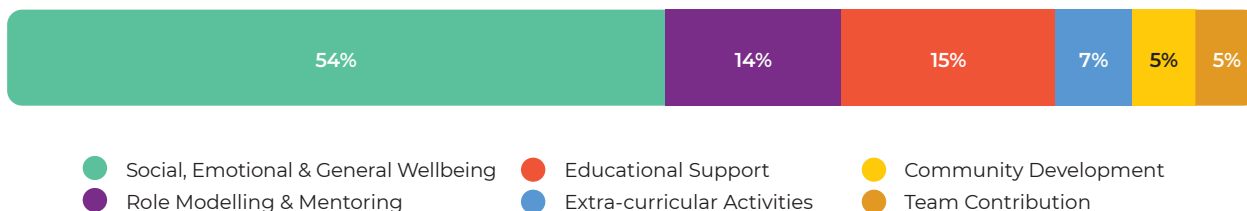


what does a school chaplain do?

School chaplains in Australia provide social, emotional, and pastoral support to school communities. They contribute to the overall wellbeing strategies and educational goals of our local schools.

School chaplains are in the prevention and support business: helping students find a better way to deal with issues ranging from family breakdown and loneliness to friendships and mental health.

How much time do chaplains spend on each of their key accountabilities?



what impact do school chaplains have?



"When I miss my parents or I'm having a bad day, I will go and see [our school chaplain] ... because it helps me when I'm feeling down or sad. After my time, I feel really happy and I'm ready to learn again."

Owen, Student (aged 10)
with School Chaplain Rob

"Having a school chaplain ... has been instrumental in enhancing the overall wellbeing of our students. Carla offers a safe and non-judgemental space where students can freely express their emotions and concerns. She organises activities, events, and groups that promote inclusivity, connection and a positive school environment."

Nic Williams, Principal
with School Chaplain Carla



who do school chaplains talk to?

In Australia, 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

19,634

pastoral conversations every week, which makes up

68%

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

25

pastoral conversations.

SCHOOL STAFF

Chaplains have

6,554

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.

PARENT/CARERS

Chaplains have

2,707

pastoral conversations every week, which makes up

9%

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

3

pastoral conversations.

how do school chaplains help students?

Top 5 issues students talk to chaplains about...

1. Friendship/Peer Issues

18%

2. Education Support

(Behaviour, Disengagement, Study Issues)

16%

3. Bullying / Harassment

15%

4. Mental Health –

(Anxiety/Depression)

10%

5. Family Breakdown –

(Parental Separation)

8%

Every year
chaplains have

206,360

formal conversations and

579,000

informal conversations
with students.



School Chaplains
provide support to

3,059

classes every week.

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.

what is the impact of chaplaincy on school wellbeing?



The Nest is Australia's wellbeing framework for children and young people aged 0 to 24 years. It's a way of thinking about the whole child in the context of their daily lives, viewing wellbeing in a way that brings together the different elements a child or young person needs to thrive. The Nest conceptualises wellbeing as interconnected domains that support each other to help children reach their potential.

Below are the percentages of school chaplains who report substantive impact in each of these key domains.

valued, loved & safe

97%

Being a positive role model for students to emulate

87%

Helping students develop more positive relationships with family, friends, and peers

healthy

91%

Promoting the social, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing of students

85%

Helping students to develop strategies to deal with their emotions and stress

school community*

91%

Contributing to a positive ethos and culture in the school

84%

Supporting teachers and other school staff

actively participating

74%

Helping students to develop a stronger sense of belonging at school and/or to the wider community

68%

Helping students to express their views and opinions about issues that affect them

engaged in learning

78%

Helping students to be ready and return to classroom learning after being in distress

61%

Supporting students in their learning through classroom support

identity & culture

61%

Supporting the spiritual health and wellbeing of students

58%

Affirming the cultural and/or spiritual identity of students

essential needs

74%

Facilitating Breakfast Clubs or other services to ensure students are adequately fed at school

36%

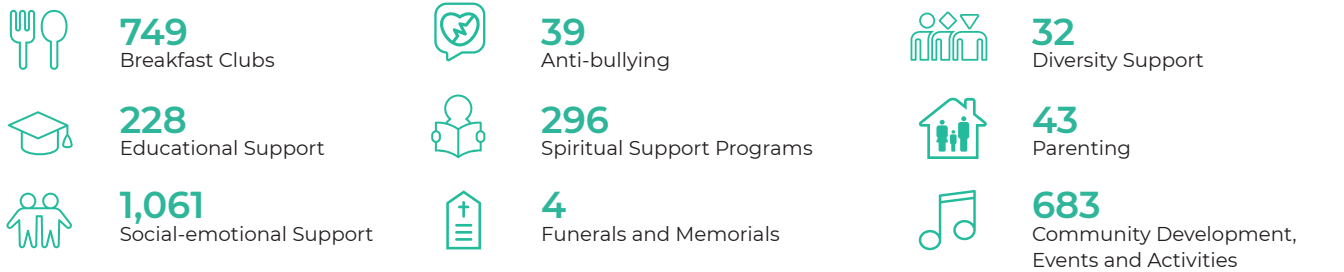
Providing students with other material basics (uniforms, books, equipment) to help their learning outcomes

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 holistic wellbeing programs, such as Rock and Water, Rhythm 2 Recovery, and Seasons for Growth. These programs involve daily, weekly, or monthly sessions in response to the needs of the school.

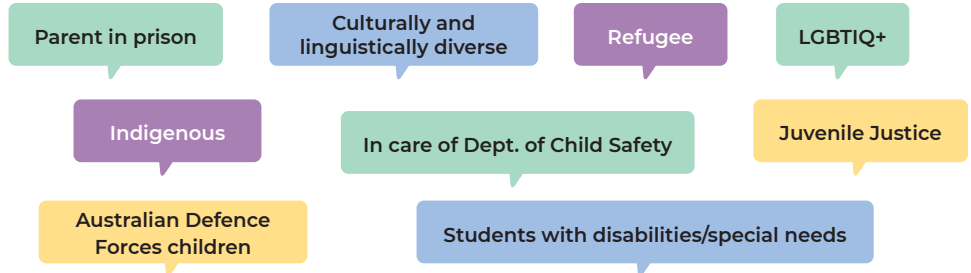


How many programs do chaplains run in an average school term?



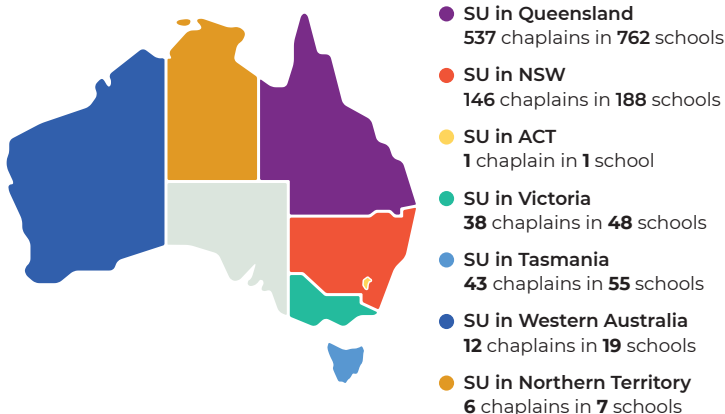
how do school chaplains support those at-risk?

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?

Nationwide Distribution of SU School Chaplains



TOTAL SU Australia 783 chaplains in 1,080 schools

school chaplaincy volunteers

SU Chaplaincy connects schools with their local community.

Every week hundreds of volunteers engage with their local school to provide programs and events, facilitated by the chaplain.

Volunteers and Volunteer Hours

630	Social, Emotional & General Wellbeing = 3,404 hrs
589	Community Development = 1,897 hrs
365	Role Modelling & Mentoring = 4,874 hrs
153	Educational Support = 868 hrs
1,034	Extra-Curricular Activities = 3,185 hrs
221	Team Contribution = 520 hrs

Volunteers are sourced from the local community, churches, school parents, support groups and other invested organisations.

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

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

SU Chaplaincy is a ministry of SU Australia Ministries Limited.

ACN 009 669 569 | ABN 74 009 669 569 Registered Charity No. 1261. RTO 30548

SU Australia Ministries Limited is a member of the worldwide Scripture Union International community.
W suchaplaincy.org.au T 1300 478 753 E info@suchaplaincy.org.au

a ministry of
SU Australia