



## **School Chaplaincy Program**

The School Chaplaincy program is committed to providing support for our students, parents and staff. This is to be accessed on a voluntary basis and is clearly outlined in college newsletters and access is provided through direct contact with the chaplain, or through the school office.

Students can chat about issues that are relevant to them, whether they are school based or personal. Parents can seek advice on parenting, raise family issues that may impact on the school with their child, or simply seek support for their individual situation as needed. Staff may feel the need to seek support, or provide insights into various issues as they arise.

The Chaplain is available for all stake-holders in the school community. He will coordinate the school chapel programs, enjoy interacting with the students and staff on an informal basis at break-times, and catch up with specific students as they ask for support during the school day on the two days a week he is at the school. On occasions, he could be available to parents at home in times of grief or extra support needs such as hospitalisation and family tragedies.

It is understood that the services of the chaplain are available on request and no-one is forced to be involved with the chaplain under duress. Thus students, parents and staff have open access to the chaplain, and he will coordinate his day for maximum benefit of the school community.

The staff can talk to the chaplain and provide insights and recommendations on students at risk that the chaplain could interact with and provide an opportunity for support for. Students themselves may express things where it would appear the chaplain could then chat with parents and provide support in situations that impact ultimately back on the school.

Being a small school, we do not have a separate counsellor and a chaplain, so our chaplain also provides some limited counselling opportunities, recognising that issues that need to be seen by a professional counsellor are referred on appropriately.

The specific religious-focused discussions and activities would be funded by the North Australian Conference of Seventh-day Adventist, separate to the much appreciated Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations under the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program.

Students and parents do not have to maintain contact with the chaplain as this is a voluntary program to provide additional support to members of the school community. Access is simply through direct contact with the chaplain or through the school office if needed.

If there is a concern or complaint about the chaplaincy service – then the person should raise it with the chaplain if appropriate. The next step in the process would be to raise it with the principal who would then address the issue. If this was unsuccessful, the issue could be raised with the North Australian Conference Education Director.

The School is very appreciative of the opportunities for support within their school community that this funding initiative has provided. We gratefully acknowledge the value and funding of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations under the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program.