



Pastoral Care at Wamberal Public School

For the past four years Wamberal Public School has received funding from the Australian Government to employ a Pastoral Care Worker under the National School Chaplaincy Program. At the end of 2011 a submission was made to have this program continued and Wamberal Public School has successfully received a continuation of funding for the Pastoral Care program under the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program for 2012-2014.

Pastoral Care Program Objectives

The Pastoral Care Program aims to assist the school community to provide pastoral care and general spiritual, social and emotional comfort to all students, irrespective of their faith or beliefs. This can include support and guidance about ethic, values, relationships, and spiritual issues; the provision of student welfare; and enhancing engagement with the broader community.

The Role of the Pastoral Care Worker (PCW)

The Pastoral Care Worker will work closely with the School Principal, Counsellor and Learning Support Team to deliver a range of student resilience and welfare services and programs to meet the needs of the school community. This may include peer leadership and support programs, mentoring/coaching, support for students in classroom and playground, as well as organising one-on-one or group sessions for students, parents, staff and other members of the school community.



The Pastoral Care Worker will provide students, their families and staff with support or appropriate referrals in difficult situations such as during times of grief and other critical events or when students are facing personal or emotional challenges.

The Pastoral Care Worker will also support students who express a desire to explore their spirituality. This may include providing guidance about spirituality, values, ethical matters and/or appropriate referral of questions of faith/spirituality.

The Pastoral Care Worker will develop relationships with, and referring students/ parents/ carers to specialist services within the school as appropriate or externally under the direction of the School Principal.

Services & Activities Funded Under the Pastoral Care Program

Some of the services & activities to be offered to students, parents/ carers and staff as part of the Pastoral Care Program include;

- Classroom support
- Playground support
- One-on-one support, as well as mentoring/coaching
- Seasons for Growth (grief & loss support)
- APEEL (Social Skills & relationships program)
- Don't Worry (anxiety and fear-fighting program)
- Super Kid (student leadership training)

The Pastoral Care Program will not deliver Religious Education to students; this will be done by voluntary Scripture Teachers as part of the Special Religious Education (SRE) program already operating in NSW Public Schools.



Student Involvement in the Pastoral Care Program

Involvement in the Pastoral Care Program and any other services, programs and activities being offered is completely voluntary and members of the school community do not have to participate.

Students will receive Pastoral Care support through a variety of means. Students can be referred for Pastoral Care support by the Classroom Teacher, School Counsellor or Learning Support Team to meet the specific needs of students in the classroom and playground. Parent permission will also be sought for student participation in special

programs, but in most cases student participation in the Pastoral Care program will be automatically assumed unless otherwise advised.

Parents/ Guardians/ Carers can choose to have their child/ren opt-out of the Pastoral Care program by providing a written note to the School Principal, Pastoral Care Worker or Classroom Teacher.

Students may also refer themselves for Pastoral Care support to meet their specific needs at any time by approaching the School Principal, School Counsellor, Pastoral Care Worker or Classroom Teacher and in such cases Parents/ Guardians/ Carers will be contacted directly to discuss appropriate support to meet the needs of the individual child.

Pastoral Care support and one-on-one appointments may also be requested by Parents/ Guardians/ Carers for their child, family or self at any time by contacting the School Principal, School Counsellor or Pastoral Care Worker directly by means of written or verbal communication.

Community Consultation

Throughout the duration of the Pastoral Care Program Wamberal Public School has engaged in a consultation process with parents, students and teachers who have all participated in services provided by our Pastoral Care Worker as well as the wider school community. This involved soliciting feedback from parents through our annual school survey as well as feedback from parents/guardians and students who have participated in the grief & loss program 'Seasons for Growth' through voluntary feedback forms.

Staff and Parent/Guardians of students receiving in-class & playground support were also contacted to receive feedback on their support for the continuation of the chaplaincy/student welfare service at Wamberal Public School based on their child's experiences with the program in the past. The consultation process consisted of a variety of forms including written letters of support, program evaluation forms and personal interviews.

Lastly, the support for continuation of our chaplaincy/student welfare program engaged our P & C committee in regular and annual discussions and feedback which resulted in overwhelming support for the program to be continued. This has been indicated through a joint letter of support from our P & C Committee & School Council Presidents.



In the future our school plans to demonstrate the ongoing support for the Pastoral Care Program from the school community in a variety of ways. These include documentation results from surveys of parents, students and staff relating to specific programs and services operating under the funding of the Pastoral Care Worker. Documentation of such surveys will also include summaries of survey results and comments.

Documentation of regular meetings with the school representative body including all discussions, and decisions made relating to the Pastoral Care program. Other discussions with members of the school community will also be documented at a variety of school events. For example, student orientation programs, transition programs and parent information evenings.

The school will also archive and document feedback & letters of support from the school's P & C as well as feedback from parents/guardians whose children have participated in programs operating within the school's Pastoral Care program. These could include letters, records of verbal conversations and written notes from parent interviews.

Complaints Handling

Complaints relating to the Pastoral Care Program can be made in writing directly to the School Principal. Every attempt will be made to resolve complaints at a local level working alongside the Complaints Handling Policy issued by the Department of Education & Communities.

If a complaint cannot be resolved at the school level or if the complainant does not wish to address their complaint to the School Principal they may be made directly to the Departments of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations by:

- Completing the complaint reporting form available at the Program website:
www.deewr.gov.au/schoolchaplaincyandwelfare
- Emailing; schoolchaplaincyandwelfarecomplaints@deewr.gov.au
- Posting to:
NSCSWP – Program Manager
GPO Box 9880
Adelaide SA 5001
- Telephoning the *National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program* Hotline on 1300 363 079

Disclaimer

The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Acknowledgement

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Any evaluation surveys conducted must ask participants if they are aware of the source of funding for the activity and, if so, how they became aware of the funding source.

The Funding Recipient must provide to the Australian Government or it's agent, if requested, any National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program materials for placement on the Department's website, or for use in any other Australian Government or Department publication.

