

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This petition of certain citizens of Australia draws to the attention of the House the Rudd Government's failure to commit to ongoing funding for the National School Chaplaincy program beyond mid 2010.

Figures show that 97% of school principals who have engaged a chaplain strongly support the program and recognise the benefits for their school communities. If Federal funding is discontinued, many chaplaincy services will have to cease operating. This will have an incredibly negative impact on our children in schools who are looking for that independent, trusted friend who can help them navigate through life's issues.

We ask the house to recognise the importance of the National School Chaplaincy Program and intervene to put pressure on the Federal Government to continue support and provide funding for this vital program.