

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000155

Schools Chaplains program

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

Question

In relation to the school chaplains program:

- a) How many complains have been made about chaplains in each of the last five years, please provide a break-down by jurisdiction?
- b) For the years when welfare officers and chaplains were funded, how many of these complains were about religious chaplains and how many about welfare officers, please break down by jurisdiction?
- c) How many complains in the last five years, in each state and territory have been substantiated? Please provide information in the same way as was provided in ED0219_15.

Answer

- a. A breakdown of complaints received for the previous Chaplain programmes (2011 through to 2014) were provided at Question on Notice ED0337_15 and ED0550_15.

From 2015, states and territories are responsible for managing any complaints that arise regarding the operation of the National School Chaplaincy Programme as part of their responsibility for delivering all aspects of the programme.

- b. Under the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program (NSCSWP) where both welfare officers and chaplains were funded, 62 of the 115 complaints related to a chaplain and three related to a student welfare worker. The remaining 50 NSCSWP complaints did not relate to a chaplain or student welfare worker (for example complaints about the administration or the operation of the NSCSWP). See also previous Question ED0219_15.
- c. The former National School Chaplaincy Programme was implemented from 2007–2011. The NSCSWP was implemented from 2012 to 19 June 2014.

For a breakdown of complaints by type and jurisdiction received under these programmes for 2011, 2012 and 2013, refer to Question on Notice ED0337_15.

For a breakdown of complaints by type and jurisdiction under the NSCSWP for 1 January to 19 June 2014, refer to previous Question on Notice ED0550_15.